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Chris Davies MP
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Dear Chris

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 May, on behalf of your constituent, Mr Jack Gillum of 15 Pontfaen, Knighton, Powys LD7 1HS, regarding his recently published Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship report.

My officials have been considering the wealth of research produced by those with a passion for civil society as we are developing the forthcoming Civil Society Strategy.

It has been fantastic to work with such a broad range of civil society organisations over the last few months including at a number of insightful workshops across the country. At a conference in May, leaders in the sector discussed the issues facing society now and in the future. I am pleased to hear that Mr Gillum enjoyed the Secretary of State's speech in which he emphasised the need to adopt a flexible and inclusive approach to civil society organisations.

Civil society has a long history of improving and enriching lives, engaging with people that government often cannot reach and changing their lives for the better. Finding the best ways for government to continue to engage with civil society at all levels is vital. Ensuring that young people have a voice is an important part of that, and Mr Gillum's recommendations in that respect are interesting.

I particularly agree with Mr Gillum's comments about the relevance of civil society to all government departments. I hope you will both be pleased to hear that the Civil Society Strategy will be a truly cross-government Strategy and that we have been working particularly closely with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) throughout this process.

I hope that everyone involved in civil society is looking forward to the Strategy with enthusiasm. This is an incredibly exciting moment for civil society organisations across the country. Many thanks for your engagement in the process so far and I look forward to working with you to implement the Civil Society Strategy once we have published in the summer.

With best wishes,

Tracey Crouch MP
Minister for Sport and Civil Society

