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02 March 2026

Dear Jackson

**PE2018: Recognise the value of swimming pools and provide financial relief to help keep pools open**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 3 February 2026. I would like to thank the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee for considering the issue above and for the recent opportunity to discuss this important subject in Parliament on 6 January 2026.

As I stated during that debate, we fully recognise the value of swimming pools as essential community assets that support health, safety, social connection, and personal development. The debate reinforced what we already know - that swimming pools play a vital role in our communities, and offer significant benefits, particularly to children and young people.

I note that the Committee has agreed to close the petition for a number of reasons, including that the Scottish Government has committed to introducing a universal offer of swimming tuition for primary school children in Scotland. I am delighted that we have been able to commit to this investment, ensuring that every primary school child, regardless of background, will be given the opportunity to learn to swim - a core skill that can save lives. As you will know, this investment is part of an additional £40 million of funding for sport – including an additional £20 million to create innovative and inspiring physical activity opportunities for Scotland’s children and young people.

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Regarding the proposal of a national task force, I believe that discussions should align with the wider facilities review that is due to be published. While swimming pools do have substantial energy demands, many of the wider challenges – such as the age of facilities, ensuring communities have access to the right facilities to support their needs, and the importance of collaboration and a shared commitment across all levels of government – apply to all the sporting estate. It may be appropriate to consider these collectively, but officials are engaging with sportscotland to consider how best work should be progressed.

Yours sincerely,



**NEIL GRAY**

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