



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Nigel Huddleston MP  
Minister for Sport, Tourism & Heritage  
DCMS  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

25 January 2021

Dear Nigel,

We write again on behalf of AFC Telford United, Telford's local football club, who currently play in the National League North. AFC Telford were very grateful for all the support given to the club by the Government and the National League back in September and October to secure the necessary funding for the three divisions of the National League to commence on the 3rd October.

DCMS arranged for the payment of £10 million pounds to be paid as grant funds via a deal with Camelot. At the time, the League and its clubs were informed that this was intended to cover the first three months of the season, October-December, with a review at the end to ensure that if supporters were still unable to be admitted that the grant funding would roll over for a further period. AFC Telford has informed us that both the League and its clubs commenced the season on that basis. Making this decision to commence triggered a commitment to the League from the clubs for the entire season, much of which is in player and staff costs.

However, we understand that whilst DCMS have offered to fund the National League North with a further £11 million to cover the period January-March, but that this will be paid in loans to clubs rather than grants. AFC Telford have expressed their concern that the League and its clubs are now in a much more perilous position than they were back in September. We have been informed that many clubs recruited players in September with contracts that only became effective once the season kicked-off and are therefore now liable for these costs.

We would be grateful if you were able to consider this present round of support to be allocated by grant, rather than loan, given the enormous financial pressures the AFC Telford and the other clubs of the National League North at this stage of the season.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Allan MP  
Member of Parliament for Telford

Mark Pritchard MP  
Member of Parliament for The Wrekin