



# Culture, Media and Sport Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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## **Oral Evidence session: Blood Doping in Athletics**

Thank you for your letter of 16 January.

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You asked for a clearer indication of the questions the committee wishes to ask you following the oral evidence session with David Bedford last week.

As I explained in my letter to you in September, we invited David Bedford to give evidence to us about the e-mail he sent to you in August 2014 with attachments setting out specific allegations relating to the senior management of the IAAF and the Russian marathon runner Liliya Shobukhova.

In the course of David Bedford's evidence we learned that he had also telephoned and spoken to you in August 2014 about the e-mail before sending it to you, as well as texting afterwards. We also understand that you were invited to meet a representative of the Russian whistleblowers in 2014. David Bedford told the committee that in his view, you were aware, at least in general terms, of the allegations that the whistleblowers had made.


However, when you gave evidence to this Committee on 2 December 2015 you told us that you did not know about specific allegations about Russian doping and corruption until Hajo Seppelt's documentary about the IAAF was broadcast. We wish to pursue this discrepancy.

We also infer from the text of your e-mail exchange with Michael Beloff QC that you had sent him an earlier e-mail relating to the information that David Bedford had sent to you. We would be grateful if you would send to us a copy of your full exchange of e-mails with Michael Beloff, relating to the information you received from David Bedford.

As always, there will be other questions that the Committee may wish to pursue. We have had previous inquiries where witnesses have returned to give further oral evidence at the request of the committee. This happened in the last parliament, for example, with the evidence given by James Murdoch to the committee's inquiry into phone hacking. We hope that you will also accept this formal invitation by the committee to return to provide further evidence.

In order to reduce any confusion about your willingness to assist the Committee and the concerns we intend to raise, we will publish your letter of 16 January to us and this letter.

*Kind regards*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Damian Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Damian Collins MP**  
**Chair, Culture, Media and Sport Committee**