The Science and Technology Committee

The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, chaired by Lord Krebs, is conducting an inquiry into *Sports and exercise science and medicine: building on the Olympic legacy to improve the nation’s health*. The Committee is writing to seek evidence.

Written evidence is sought by Wednesday 6 June. Public hearings will be held in June. The Committee aims to report to the House, with recommendations, in July. The report will receive a response from the Government, and may be debated in the House.

The background and scope of the inquiry are set out in a separate note, which is enclosed with this letter. The Committee seeks evidence on any aspect of this topic, and particularly on the following questions:

**Sports and exercise science research**

- How are advances in basic understanding of physiology, biomechanics, genetics, nutrition and other disciplines applied to improving the performance of athletes (both elite and non-elite)? How robust is the application of science in this area? For example, is it possible to conduct research within a training environment?

- How is this research relevant to improving the health of the wider public?

- What is the role of exercise in improving health, as a preventative measure, and as a treatment provided or commissioned by the NHS for illnesses and chronic conditions?

- How is sports and exercise science research co-ordinated? Who sets the research agenda? Are health professionals involved in setting the research agenda for sport science and vice versa?

**Translation of research**

- How are findings from sports science research, and sports and exercise medicine, used to develop medical treatments and public health interventions? Is this done effectively?

- What medical treatments and public health interventions involving sport or exercise currently exist?

- Are the findings from sports and exercise science research, and sports and exercise medicine, translated effectively by the NHS and Department of Health? If not, what are the barriers to translation and how could these be addressed?
Are policies on sport, physical activity and health adequately integrated? What, if any, are the barriers to integration? How can the sport and health agendas in Government be better linked to leave an Olympic legacy to improve the nation’s health?

You need not address all of these questions.

Evidence should be submitted in an editable electronic form as a Microsoft Word document by e-mail to hlscience@parliament.uk. Please do not submit PDFs. If you do not have access to Microsoft Word or to the internet you may submit a paper copy to Chris Atkinson, Clerk to the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee, Committee Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW, fax 020 7219 4931. Evidence sent in paper form must be clearly printed or typed on single sides of A4 paper, unstapled.

Short submissions are preferred. A submission longer than six pages should include a one-page summary. Paragraphs should be numbered. Evidence should be dated, with a note of the author’s name and status, and of whether the evidence is submitted on an individual or corporate basis. All submissions will be acknowledged promptly.

Evidence becomes the property of the committee, and may be published by the Committee at any stage. Once you have received acknowledgement that the evidence has been received, you may publicise or publish your evidence yourself, but in doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee. Parliamentary privilege will not apply to your own publication.

Personal contact details supplied to the committee will be removed from evidence before publication. However, personal contact details will be retained by the Committee Office and used for specific purposes relating to the committee’s work, for instance to seek additional information or to send copies of the committee’s report. Written evidence will normally be published online and deposited in the Parliamentary Archives.

Persons who submit written evidence, and others, may be invited to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster, broadcast in audio and often video format on the internet, and transcripts are published online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed. Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the clerk or the Chairman of the Committee, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee. You may follow the progress of the inquiry at www.parliament.uk/hlscience