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## **An Open Letter to Members of Parliament for London Constituencies**

Swim England London is one of the regional bodies of Swim England, the National Governing Body for swimming, diving, artistic swimming and water polo in England. As a Region, we represent over 22,000 unique members of the swimming family across London, ranging from volunteers on the poolside helping the sport run, to young people beginning their journey in the water, right through to elite athletes who go on to represent the City and the country. These swimmers make up your constituents and need your urgent assistance.

Swimming as an activity has a proven and extensive benefit to health and wellbeing, which Swim England demonstrated through their Value of Swimming research (<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/value-of-swimming/>). The report showed that the long-term health benefits associated with swimming (at all levels) save the NHS and social care system over **£357million** a year. This, coupled with other activities within the community leisure sector, contribute to over **£3.3billion** in social value to the UK every year. The leisure industry is unique in its ability to provide such huge social value.

The Government have previously announced that the earliest date that indoor sport and leisure facilities, including swimming pools, can open is the 4<sup>th</sup> July, however today the Prime Minister revealed that these facilities would not be permitted to open on this date. This decision is nothing less than absurd given the enormous social and economic value of swimming and other sport and physical activity, as outlined in the previous paragraph. It's staggering that the Government have chosen to prioritise the opening of pubs, which by the very nature of their trading contribute to long-term health disorders; meanwhile there is scientific evidence that regular swimming reduces the risk of these conditions.

Swim England, along with other leading industry bodies, have produced a solid and thorough framework and guidance for the safe return to swimming across the breadth of the sport. We are confident that swimmers can return to the water in a safe manner, and when restarted our sport will continue to improve the health and wellbeing of your constituents.

On behalf of Swim England London (and bearing in mind many of our members are your constituents), I implore you to raise our concerns with the Prime Minister and urge the Government to immediately review and reverse this decision.

Yours sincerely,



**Alex Harrison**  
Chair  
Swim England London

