

Sara Sutcliffe MBE

CEO – Table Tennis England

Emailed: [REDACTED]

cc. Sandra Deaton

Chair – Table Tennis England

Emailed: [REDACTED]

14 January 2021

Dear Sara,

I understand that you have a General Meeting planned where there may be a vote of no confidence proposed in the Chief Executive and Chair of Table Tennis England.

The articles of Table Tennis England will be clear, I am sure, on how the senior positions of the organisation should be appointed, and whose responsibility it is to do so. But without doubt, the Chair and CEO of a national governing body should expect to have the support of its membership to give them a chance of success in their term of office.

It is not within the powers of Sport England to make appointments to national governing bodies, nor is it our desire to do so, but your members may be interested in the view of Sport England in considering their position, given our status as Table Tennis England's largest investor.

Having a strong, well governed organisation leading an individual sport is important now more than ever. In our work with Table Tennis England, we have felt assured that your Board is operating appropriately, and in-line with the Sports Governance Code. We have not seen any evidence of governance malpractice, and in a year more challenging than any before we have no cause for concern about the leadership of the organisation. Our confidence in Table Tennis England's leadership led in 2020 to the provision of roll-over funding of £1.95million for 2021-22 as part of our covid-19 support package.

This is a challenging time for everyone missing their sport, as it is for those trying to lead organisations through it. I would reiterate that General Meeting decisions are a matter for members of the association, but I hope the letter is helpful to them.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PS', with a vertical line to its right.

Phil Smith
Director of Sport