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Dear Vicky,

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 November, regarding the findings of your research into the origins of a successful female leader. The Prime Minister receives a high volume of requests and, regrettably, is unable to meet personally on this occasion. However, I want to assure you that your work has been noted and is valued by officials across Government. As the Minister for Small Business and Economic Transformation, it falls within my portfolio to respond.

Your research provides important insights into the role of early experiences, particularly sport and competitive activities in developing leadership skills and confidence in girls and women from all backgrounds. We recognise the value of this evidence, which aligns closely with the Government's commitment to supporting women's leadership entrepreneurship and participation in sport.

At the Department for Business and Trade, we are leading the Invest in Women Taskforce and the Investing in Women Code, with the ambition of making the UK the best place in the world to be a female founder. The Taskforce is working to increase the proportion of investment going to all-female founding teams, and to grow the pipeline of female entrepreneurs through mentoring, skills, regional support, and initiatives such as the Invest in Women Hub. The Investing in Women Code now has nearly 300 signatories, including most major UK retail banks, and is helping to improve women entrepreneurs' access to finance and resources.

Alongside this, the Government is committed to supporting every aspect of women's sport and ensuring all women and girls, no matter their background, are able to participate in sport and physical activity. We are driving a Decade of Change in women's sport, with significant investment in facilities, curriculum reform, and high-profile events to ensure equal access and opportunity for women and girls across the country. Initiatives such as the This Girl Can campaign, the new School Sport Partnerships model, and the delivery of world-class grassroots facilities are central to this effort.

We recognise, as your research highlights, that early participation in sport and access to nurturing environments are key enablers of leadership and future success. The Government

will continue to work across departments to ensure that every girl and woman in the UK can fulfil her potential and has the support needed to start a business.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and share your research.

Yours sincerely,

BLAIR McDougall MP
Minister for Small Business & Economic Transformation