

UNIT 12: READING

1 The letter below is a response to the letter from Michaela Scrivin in Lesson 12.1. Read it to answer these questions.

- 1 Who is the letter from?
- 2 Does the letter respond to all of the issues brought up by Michaela?
- 3 Do you think Michaela would be happy with this response?

Dear Ms Scrivin

The Prime Minister would like to thank you for your letter regarding funding for minority sports. As I am sure you can understand, the Prime Minister's busy schedule does not allow him to reply personally. However, he has asked me to respond on his behalf.

It is very pleasing to learn about the efforts you are making on behalf of minority sports, and also to read about the great pleasure taken by young people in the activities which you have witnessed around the country. We would like to assure you that the government is aware of and supports the great diversity of sporting activity that occurs in this country.

Under the current government there has been a very real increase in spending on sporting facilities around the country. In the coming years, this is going to increase as we prepare for the Olympic Games, with a very large investment being made in facilities and promotion of sports, not only in London but all around the country.

Unfortunately, given the huge variety of sports we are talking about, there has to be a limit. It often becomes necessary to prioritise between activities which have very few participants and those which are enjoyed by a larger number of people.

You mention that you would like to see a more sympathetic media towards minority sports. While we do of course agree with you completely on this point, I hope you can see that it is beyond our abilities to directly influence what the media chooses to cover.

I hope this goes some way to responding to the issues you raise. Can I suggest that you contact your local Member of Parliament if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Fraser-Darling

Secretary to the Office of the Prime Minister

2 Can you guess the meaning of these words from the text?

witnessed	diversity	investment	participant
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3 Answer the following questions about the text.

- 1 Do you think the Prime Minister's office has taken a lot of time to think about these problems?
- 2 Why do you think Mr Fraser-Darling suggests Michaela should contact her Member of Parliament?
- 3 If you were Michaela Scrivin, what would you do after receiving this letter?