



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Arooj Shah
Leader of Oldham Council
Civic Centre, West Street
Oldham, OL1 1UT

6th August 2021

Dear Arooj,

The nation is watching the Olympic Games as British athletes bring victory home, and in Oldham we are rightly proud of Matthew Walls, the Shaw cyclist who won a Gold medal this week.

Oldham has long and recent history in raising Olympians, from Henry Taylor in 1908, Dorothy Emerson in 1960, and most recently Nicola White MBE, who won a Gold medal at the 2016 games.

The Borough rightly recognised this outstanding achievement and awarded Nicola with the Freedom of the Borough, the highest honour Oldham can give, indeed offering the right to march through the streets of Oldham on ceremonial occasions with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying.

Thankfully the privilege of drawing swords hasn't been taken up by Freemen that we know of, but the pride associated with Oldham being represented on the international stage is something we should all bang the drum about.

We are asking that the Council recognise the achievement on Matthew's return, and that he is awarded Freedom of the Borough of Oldham in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the 2021 Olympic Games.

Yours sincerely,

Debbie Abrahams MP
Oldham East & Saddleworth

Jim McMahon MP
Oldham West & Royton

Angela Rayner MP
Ashton-under-Lyne,
Droylsden & Failsworth