



Pete Wishart MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

27 May 2022

Dear Mr Wishart,

Free to air football on STV

Following on from the evidence session last November when my colleague Bobby Hain and I appeared before the Scottish Affairs Committee, I am writing with an update on the subject of free-to-air football which we discussed as part of that meeting.

I am delighted to confirm that we have agreed a deal with Sky to show the World Cup Play-off Final on Sunday 5 June free to air on STV, with Scotland's participation against Wales obviously dependent on successfully navigating the semi-final against Ukraine. This game will be available on STV across all our platforms: Freeview, Sky and Freesat satellite, Virgin and streamed live on the STV Player.

STV has worked closely with Sky to agree a commercial arrangement for us to sub-license the necessary rights to show this game, which were already held on an exclusive basis by Sky. This collaboration, which was initiated by STV, has been extended to ITV and S4C who will also partner with Sky to show the Wales fixture in their respective territories. We will join Sky Sports' coverage to capture the pre-match build-up, before showing the match in full from 5pm, and then go straight into the *Britain's Got Talent* live final. It promises to be a very exciting evening's entertainment, all universally available for free.

As we conveyed to you at our evidence session, we recognise the value and importance of football fans being able to watch the national side in action free to air. In recent times, the commercial model has enabled pay operators to outbid advertiser-funded, or indeed licence fee-funded services, to secure such rights, however we are committed to finding ways to access them wherever possible. We do already hold the rights for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, which are shared with the BBC meaning that should Scotland progress to the tournament, all their games will be automatically available free to air. Just two must-win matches to go!

I trust this is useful and please come back to me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Pitts', written in a cursive style.

Simon Pitts
Chief Executive