



Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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John Jeffrey and Ben Morel
Chairman and CEO, Six Nations Council
1st Floor, Simmonscourt House
Simmonscourt Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4

10 March 2020

Dear Mr Jeffrey and Mr Morel,

Thank you for your letter, received this morning (10 March.)

The Committee is dissatisfied with your response. We found a number of your answers to our questions disingenuous. In addition, your responses failed to answer all of our questions fully. We would like you to write again on the following points, on which we require clearer and more transparent responses:

- Point 2 of your letter states: "The presentation of joint bids by two or more parties is prohibited under the rules of the ITT Process, as shared with the invitees at the point of invitation". This implies that these rules for the ITT process were imposed upon the Six Nations Council, rather than being developed by the Six Nations Council itself. Please can you provide an answer that sets out why specifically the Six Nations Council decided to prohibit joint bids? Please also clarify what is meant by "the rules of the ITT Process do permit sub-licensing which allows a broadcaster to share rights with another." Is this joint bidding by another name?
- In reference to Point 1, we have seen press reports stating that you will package the Six Nations matches into three separate bidding packages which could be sold off to a mixture of subscription and free-to-air broadcasters. Can you confirm this is true, and if so, why was this not included in your response to Q1 of our original letter?
- Your response to Point 4 is, at best, only a partial answer: you refer only to the indication that you have made to DCMS about the Group B status of the Women's Six Nations Championship. While we of course agree about maximizing the exposure of the women's game, we request a response also about the men's game.

We request your response by 10am on Thursday 12 March. In the meantime, we intend to write to the Secretary of State for DCMS formally requesting that the Department consider the option of moving the Six Nations from Category B to Category A of listed sporting events.

Yours sincerely,

JULIAN KNIGHT MP

CHAIR, DIGITAL, CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT COMMITTEE

Cc Bill Sweeney, Mark Dodson, Martyn Phillips

[CEOs of the Rugby Football Union, Scottish Rugby Union and Welsh Rugby Union]