



Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 6120 website www.parliament.uk/cms

Mr Richard Masters
The Premier League
Brunel Building
57 North Wharf Road
London, W2 1HQ

By email

19 November 2020

Dear Mr Masters,

I am writing to follow up on your appearance before the Committee on 10 November.

We are disappointed that you have not yet come to an agreement that will ensure the survival of football clubs through the current pandemic. There is enough money in the game to save football clubs but we are beginning to doubt whether there is enough leadership to make that happen. We urge you to stop squabbling and come to an agreement. Fans have been waiting too long. We expect, and the fans deserve, better.

This is not the first time a DCMS Committee has heard compelling evidence of failings at every level of football governance. Football is again failing to save itself. The DCMS Committee made it clear before the 2019 election that if the football authorities failed to reform, or concluded that a statutory framework was necessary to reform, we would recommend that the Government immediately brought forward legislation to ensure a fully independent system of football licensing and regulation. There is now a pressing need for the Government to consider acting. The current fiasco underlines the need for change, but the immediate task must be to secure ailing football clubs.

The Committee would like to be kept updated on any and all discussions on the survival of football clubs through COVID-19 and beyond. That includes discussions between the Premier League and the EFL; between the Premier League and the Government, including Ministers, officials and special advisors; and within the Premier League.

To better understand how fans and communities are included in this process, we would like similar updates on correspondence with fans and any relevant engagement activities.

If there is any doubt whether information about an email, engagement activity, call or meeting should be included in your updates, we suggest erring on the side of caution to ensure that nothing is inadvertently withheld from the Committee.

The Committee's key interest is in whether progress has been made in achieving an agreement on the distribution of money from the Premier League to the English Football League. We ask that you begin each response with an overview of progress made.

We would also be grateful for your assistance in ensuring that the Committee is updated on a weekly basis. As I indicated during the evidence session, we intend to publish these updates on the Committee website. We will write again in seven days.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julian Knight". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the surname "Knight".

Julian Knight MP
Chair, DCMS Committee