



**Culture, Media and
Sport Committee**

17 October 2025

**Craig Guildford QPM VR DL
Chief Constable
West Midlands Police**

Dear Chief Constable,

The decision of Birmingham City Council's Safety Advisory Group, with the backing of West Midlands Police, to prevent supporters of Maccabi Tel Aviv from attending their match with Aston Villa on 6 November undermines the principle that football, our national game, is for everyone.

We are deeply concerned that your force does not believe it is capable of keeping football fans safe were away fans, including those who live in the UK, to be allowed to attend the match. Given this regrettable situation, we would be grateful if you would provide the Committee with the following information as a matter of urgency.

1. What are the specific reasons for which the force, and therefore the Safety Advisory Group, does not believe it is capable of policing the match were away fans permitted to attend?
2. What would be needed for your force to be in a position to police the match with away fans attending?
3. What alternatives to a full ban on away fans attending were considered?
4. Are you confident that the away team and their staff will be safe during their visit to Villa Park?

We will be publishing this letter and any response on the Committee's website, subject to any necessary redactions of sensitive or confidential information.

Yours sincerely,

**Dame Caroline Dinenage MP
Chair, Culture, Media and Sport Committee**