



Department
for Culture,
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Dame Caroline Dinenage MP
Chair, Culture, Media and Sport Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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Dear Dame Caroline,

I am writing to formally confirm that, following Royal Assent in July of the Football Governance Act 2025, we have laid before Parliament a draft of the Statutory Guidance on the meaning of "Significant Influence or Control" in accordance with paragraph 15 of Schedule 1 to the Act. As per the Act, the draft guidance is laid in Parliament for 40 days during which either House may resolve not to approve it; if no such resolution is made, the Secretary of State may publish the guidance.

The statutory guidance supports the Schedule 1 definition of an "owner" by providing interpretative detail on "significant influence or control" which in turn determines who may be subject to the Independent Football Regulator's (IFR) tests. Its purpose is to ensure that fans can identify the real persons exercising control of their clubs, notwithstanding opaque or complex structures, thereby giving fans the much needed transparency they deserve.

In developing the draft we have drawn on approaches used in the Companies Act "Persons with Significant Control" regime, to ensure we are aligned with current precedent. We have included industry specific examples, which have been tested with stakeholders, to make the concept more tangible for all who will have to interpret it, especially clubs.

As previously committed, the Government has laid this draft guidance ahead of the point at which clubs will be required to identify their owners in their personnel statements, so that clubs have clarity before the IFR begins its testing of owners.

We recognise the urgency in establishing the IFR, and laying this draft guidance is a key step in giving effect to this regime.

Please do let me know if you have any further questions on the guidance.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Peacock MP
Minister for Sport, Tourism, Civil Society and Youth