

18th December 2025

Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP
House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP,

Re: Safety Advisory Group meetings regarding Aston Villa v Maccabi Tel Aviv

I write in response to your letter of 9 December 2025 sent to Mr Michael Enderby, who works in the Directorate of Birmingham City Council for which I am the Chief Officer.

The Safety Advisory Group (SAG) will of course assist the Home Affairs Select Committee.

You have requested copies of the minutes from the three SAG meetings held on 7 October, 16 October and 23 October. For clarity, there was no meeting on the 23 October, it was held on the 24 October. I have included copies of the minutes of the three meetings.

In respect of the consideration of the fixture at the 24 October SAG, whilst West Midlands Police may regard the advice they gave to that meeting as the culmination of prior advice, the Chair of the SAG was very clear, as stated in the 24 October 2025 letter conveying the SAG's assessment of public safety that:

*"The SAG had previously met in relation to the above fixture on 7 and 16 October 2025. However, in view of the significant public concern as to the advice previously given by the SAG on 16 October, it was appropriate to look at this again, **starting afresh and reaching an entirely new assessment of public safety.**" [emphasis added]*

Therefore, SAG's 24 October 2025 assessment was a new assessment, starting afresh.

In respect of the Lord Mann report, the SAG did not consider that report at any of the three meetings held. To the best of our knowledge, Birmingham City Council does not hold a copy of this report.

You have also requested a copy of a report prepared by the organisation 'Game Over Israel'; a report of this nature was not considered by the SAG.

The 6 November 2025 Aston Villa v Maccabi Tel Aviv match was obviously one from which the SAG and the Council learnt a great deal. The Council and the SAG have been keen to learn from this experience and develop its processes for the future.



Thus, the Council and the SAG intend to commission a formal process of independent forward-looking review undertaken by an external law firm to ascertain what can be improved from a governance perspective.

The review will be independent, headed by an individual with relevant experience from an independent law firm. We envisage that this will involve the participation of relevant stakeholders and the Sports Grounds Safety Authority. The outcome of the review will be reported through the Council's Governance Board, the membership of which includes senior elected members, senior officers and Central Government appointed Commissioners.

Should you require any further information to assist you with your enquiries, please let me know.

With kind regards



Richard Brooks
Executive Director, City Operations
Birmingham City Council

