

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

12 January 2026

Dear Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP,

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

I write further to the Home Affairs Select Committee meeting on 6 January 2026.

Birmingham City Council is keen to ensure that the Committee has the fullest information possible, to assist with its inquiry and considerations.

Therefore, we have sent access to the recordings of each of the four Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meetings; 7 October 2025, 16 October 2025, 24 October 2025 and 3 November 2025, via a secure file share system, to the Committee's staff team. As you know, after the 16 October meeting and subsequent high level of public interest, the SAG considered the issue of safety afresh, providing new advice on 24 October.

In addition to these recordings, we have also compiled a bundle of further documentation which we think the committee may find useful, which we will provide to your staff team.

I have provided for you in the bundle of documents the Microsoft Teams generated transcripts of these meetings, to assist with the viewing of the meetings. These however have not been checked for accuracy and have been generated by Microsoft Teams, not an officer.

The committee enquired about the redactions that had been made to the published minutes, in comparison to the unredacted minutes which we provided to the Committee. BCC received numerous Freedom of Information requests relating to the SAG process. BCC considered the information held and following usual process, consulted where possible with relevant third parties who had provided that information, which included West Midlands Police (WMP). The redactions that you see on the 7 October minutes include personal data, names, initials etc which BCC would have applied in any event, and they also include redactions to law enforcement information (section 31 FOIA) which were applied

at the request of WMP. The only redactions in the minutes of the 16 and 24 October meetings relate to personal data.

The committee also asked Councillor Cotton about member involvement and complaints about conduct. I have included an email in the bundle from Councillor Cotton to the City Solicitor, Tony Cox, requesting that this issue is considered in the independent review that BCC will be commissioning.

"I am writing to you following my appearance at the Home Affairs Select Committee on the 6 January 2026 in relation to concerns that were raised about declarations of interests by the Councillors attending the Aston Villa Safety Advisory Group; when elected members should withdraw from taking part in a forum they are participating in as a result of interests, particularly where it may lead to allegations bias or predetermination; and member conduct in relation to the Councillor Code of Conduct. As you are aware prior to attending the HASC I had already agreed that an independent external review be undertaken in relation to the governance of the Safety Advisory Group. I think it is essential that the Terms of Reference for this review include the issues I have previously mentioned in this email in addition to the other issues already identified such as the recording and sharing of information and partnership working."

In response, Tony Cox agreed to include this aspect within the terms of reference for the review.

I trust that this additional information, in addition to the information previously provided (7 October minutes, 16 October minutes, 24 October minutes) will assist the committee.

Should you require any further information, please let me know.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Brooks', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Brooks

Executive Director, City Operations
Birmingham City Council