



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

Stephanie Peacock MP
Minister for Sport, Tourism, Civil Society and Youth
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
1st Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

E: enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dcms

12 January 2026

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

INT2026/00252/DC

Dear Dame Caroline,

Following Royal Assent of the Football Governance Act, I am pleased to confirm that the Government has laid before Parliament the Regulations for the Suitability Determination Period for New Owners and Officers, under Section 32 of the Football Governance Act 2025. As per Section 91 (4) of the Act, the regulations are subject to the negative resolution procedure. This secondary legislation milestone builds upon the progress made in specifying the competitions in scope of the Independent Football Regulator (IFR), the statutory guidance on the meaning of 'significant influence or control' which was published on 8 December and the commencement of the IFR's powers to test incumbent owners and officers on 12 December 2025.

The IFR will operate a new Owners, Directors and Senior Executives suitability regime to ensure those running clubs meet appropriate standards of honesty, integrity and financial soundness. The statutory deadline is integral to ensure suitable new owners and officers are in place as soon as is practicable, while also encouraging swift yet robust decision making. The determination period avoids inhibiting investment in a fast-paced industry, and gives clubs and their fans certainty that takeovers will not be unnecessarily prolonged. If the IFR cannot make a determination within the statutory determination period, that individual will automatically be found unsuitable at the end of the period under section 32(5) of the Act. The deadline therefore has been designed to give the IFR sufficient time to process an application and reach a decision.


Ahead of laying the regulations, the Government carried out a targeted consultation to ensure the policy was informed by stakeholder views and ensure the determination period is appropriate for both the IFR and the industry it regulates. The Government has considered all responses and the full consultation response can be read in the Explanatory Memorandum, which is published alongside the statutory instrument.

The Government will continue to work with the IFR to ensure it delivers on its intent to progress assessments promptly and efficiently, and keep the person being assessed informed of its progress as appropriate.



I would be happy to answer any further questions you may have on this instrument and I thank you, and your Committee, for your continued support with the creation of this important new regulatory regime to safeguard our national game.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Peacock', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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