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Dear Dame Karen Bradley,

Thank you for correspondence dated 29th January 2026. Please find below the answers to the questions the Committee has raised.

1. How regularly Safety Advisory Groups are convened for football fixtures in Birmingham?

WMP covers an area consisting of 7 local authority areas, each of which have their own Safety Advisory Group (SAG). As SAGs are not coordinated by WMP may we suggest that the Committee liaise with Birmingham City Council to ensure an accurate response, however, below is a summary of football-related Birmingham SAG meetings that WMP are aware of.

Birmingham Football Club
2024 x 4 SAG meetings
2025 x 3 SAG meetings

Aston Villa Football Club
2024 x 4 SAG meetings
2025 x 12 SAG meetings

2. In the case of Aston Villa vs Maccabi Tel Aviv, whose decision it was to convene the Safety Advisory Group?

On 18th September 2025, the Chair of the SAG sent an email to the Head of the Football Unit stating that he intended to convene a SAG meeting. This was to discuss, amongst other concerns relating to the fixture, the possibility of the kick off time being brought forward and the implications this would have on the safety certificate.

On 19th September 2025, a further email from the Chair was sent to the Head of the Football Unit asking WMP to give an indication on when we would be ready for the SAG meeting.

3. What representations West Midlands Police made to Birmingham City Council ahead of the decision to convene the SAG, and specifically whether the SAG was requested by West Midlands Police?

Other than to discuss the varying kick off time there were no representations made by WMP and the SAG was not requested by WMP.

Yours sincerely

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