



Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 6120 website www.parliament.uk/cms

Richard Masters

CEO, Premier League
30 Gloucester Place
London W1U 8PL

cc Rt Hon Mel Stride MP, Chair, Treasury Committee

By email

2 April 2020

Dear Mr Masters

Furloughing of non-playing staff

I am writing to express my strong dismay at the decision of certain PL clubs to furlough non-playing staff while continuing to pay players. This two-tier system is morally wrong, especially given the extremely high wages paid to players. Non-playing staff keep Premier League clubs in business, ensuring the smooth running of finances, administration, kit, stadiums and player welfare. It is deeply unfair that these staff should take less money home while players retain their full salary.

The purpose of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is not to support the economics of Premier League clubs. Your organisation should be role modelling a responsible approach rather than tolerating divisive practices. European clubs, including Bayern Munich, Juventus and Barcelona, have shown that it is possible to reach an agreement with players whereby they agree to take pay reductions for a set period.

I would like to request that the PL seek to broker an agreement between member clubs to change their approach. Please note that I have written to the Chancellor today to propose that, should clubs choose not to change their approach, the Treasury pursue a means of financial redress whereby the Exchequer recoups a proportion of the money that clubs are paying to players.

I would like to request a response to this letter, setting out your intended course of action, by Tuesday 7 April.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Knight MP, Chair, Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee