

Date: 25 September 2017

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
10 Downing Street
London
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Our Ref: CE/DLF
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Dear Prime Minister

At a recent meeting of the Council, consideration was given to a motion in connection with the formation of an Independent Regulatory Body for Football. The Council approved the motion and I was asked to write to you accordingly. The approved motion is set out below.

“English football, particularly at the highest level, enjoys unparalleled popularity with record attendances creating economic stability to both the club being supported and the local businesses and general community.

Clubs such as Leyton Orient, Leeds and the town’s own club at Blackpool have received high levels of media publicity for the wrong reasons. Disputes between fans and owners, for whatever causes, fail to be rectified or addressed by the Football Association (FA) who have delegated too much of its powers and can no longer perform a proper governing role. Ill-discipline on the pitch is stringently marshalled by the FA, yet bad governance off it has been delegated to the clubs themselves to referee.

Under the banner ‘Fans Not Numbers’ business entrepreneur Jamie Fuller the chairman of sports clothing manufacturer ‘Skins’ together with ‘Supporters Direct’ the national supporters association with over 400,000 members, are currently lobbying local politicians and national government to set up a multi-party supported Government appointed Independent Regulatory Body. A body that can not only set, but crucially, can enforce off-pitch regulations that include the powers to sanction clubs who are non-compliant. An Independent Regulatory Body could ensure that no clubs are promoted despite breaching rules, reliant on funding from unnamed entities or rendered homeless.

The funding for the Independent Body could be met with a small percentage levy on commercial rights income generated by the leagues.

As Blackpool has obvious and evident issues between its football club and a huge majority of local and out of town fans. This Council has a duty and an economical interest to promote change to the



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regulatory system to ensure that energy is spent on building not destroying supporter and community relations.

The United Kingdom is only one of five countries in the world that do not have an Independent Regulatory Body.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister Mrs. Theresa May and the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Karen Bradley MP confirming the Council's support of the concept to appoint a Government Independent Regulatory Body for football in the UK.

That the formation of the body should be supported by all political parties to address conflicts between owners and fans and to formulate a blueprint for how football governance should work and the changes to bring it about to prevent future conflicts that result in negative community and damaging economic downturn to the towns and cities affected".

We hope you will give this proposal full consideration and look forward to your response or any further opportunities to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely



Neil Jack
Chief Executive

