



Christine Seddon  
Blackpool Supporters' Trust  
16 Falmouth Road  
Blackpool  
FY1 6LH

Letter By Email

1<sup>st</sup> March 2018

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your correspondence to EFL Chairman Ian Lenagan, a copy of which has been passed on to me. I am therefore responding on behalf of the EFL.

Firstly, it is important to reiterate that the EFL does recognise that supporters of Blackpool FC have a number of ongoing concerns regarding recent events at the Club. The EFL understands these to be extremely emotive matters and notes the strength of feeling within the Blackpool Supporters' Trust (BST) membership.

Furthermore, I acknowledge your continued request for Blackpool FC to be used as a case review. As you will be aware this matter was initially raised prior to and then during the December 2017 Structured Engagement meeting where my colleagues committed to feeding BST's suggestions back into the League's overall decision making processes. I can assure you this has happened and whilst we understand your rationale for such a suggestion, it is not something the League can support in isolation and certainly not prior to the completion of our 'Owners Conduct Review' work.

As a member organisation, you will be aware that the EFL is required to act in the best interests of its membership as a whole and is held to account by its member Clubs. From the perspective of our Regulations, the member Club is controlled by its shareholders, which is why we always seek to promote a healthy dialogue between the Club and all the parties that have an interest in it. You will, I am sure, recognise that the EFL is not in a position to disclose private details pertaining to the Club's ownership structure.

There are clearly a number of sensitivities in relation to the Club's very difficult and complex situation. Please be assured that the EFL is acting in good faith at all times, with regards to the Club's fans in this matter. That, I appreciate, may not be a view shared across the fan base and the apparent lack of comment coming from the EFL must, at times, be frustrating but we have no scope to deviate from this position.

The fact does remain that the EFL will always be open to engagement with supporter groups, and as has previously been the case with BST, we will always look to provide clarity on any specific matters that you wish to raise, where we can.

Therefore I can confirm that we will arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time and location in late March to look to address the concerns that have been aired from any number of interested parties about our member Club. It is only appropriate to ensure fair representation from various Blackpool FC supporters' groups, and invitations will be circulated shortly. Please note this will be announced via the media this morning (copy attached). Should there be any instances of unwarranted abuse towards EFL staff, either in person or online, then regretfully we would be forced to cancel any plans for the proposed meeting.

I trust this response clarifies our position at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Harvey', is written over a horizontal line.

**Shaun Harvey**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
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# MEDIA RELEASE

01.03.18

For immediate use

## **EFL TO ISSUE INVITATION TO BLACKPOOL SUPPORTERS' GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

The EFL has today confirmed it will convene a meeting in March at a mutually convenient time and location for a number of fans and interested parties to discuss some of the ongoing concerns with regards to Blackpool Football Club.

Invites for the meeting, which will be issued next week, will be sent to representatives from the Blackpool Supporters Trust, Tangerine Knights, A View from the Tower, Back Henry Street, Blackpool MPs and the Blackpool Gazette. Access to the meeting will be restricted to those invited groups only and spaces will be limited.

At the meeting, attendees will be given the opportunity to raise their concerns and EFL officials will endeavour to provide answers wherever possible and explain its position on a number of matters that have previously been raised in the public domain.

The Club has been informed of the intention to host this meeting and the EFL reserves the right to withdraw the offer to meet supporter groups if there are any further incidents of unwarranted abuse directed at EFL members of staff, either online or in person.

EFL Chief Executive, Shaun Harvey, said: "There are clearly a number of issues to be discussed in relation to the Club's difficult and complex situation and we will endeavour to provide answers to the questions raised, where we can.

"The EFL will continue to act in good faith towards the supporters of the Club, and whilst this may not currently be the view shared across all sections of Blackpool's fanbase, we will be happy to meet with the various parties to discuss their concerns."

Ends.

**About EFL:**



# MEDIA RELEASE

With 72 member clubs across three divisions, the EFL (English Football League) is the world's original league football competition. It is the largest single body of professional clubs in European football and is responsible for administering and regulating the Sky Bet EFL, Carabao Cup and Checkatrade Trophy, as well as reserve and youth football. The EFL, EFL Trust and our member clubs are at the heart of communities across the country, providing shared experiences for all and using the power of sport to improve lives.

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