



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

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Dear Mr

Thank you for your letter of 4 August to the Minister of Sport, Tracey Crouch MP about the ownership of Blackpool Football Club (FC). I am replying on behalf of the Ministerial Support Team and apologise for the delay in doing so.

We realise that many Blackpool FC supporters have experienced some incredible highs and lows on the pitch over the past decade, and sadly in recent times too many negative headlines off the pitch also. Much of this has been played out in the media. What is clear is that there remains a great deal of antagonism between the owners and supporters, which unfortunately was all too evident in the ugly scenes that led to the abandonment of the Blackpool versus Huddersfield game in May.

Blackpool FC is a proud club with a great history and we want to see it acknowledged only for its achievements on the pitch. The Minister for Sport has raised the issue of Blackpool FC's owners and the relationship they have with their supporters to the Chief Executive of the Football League.

The Minister for Sport will always look to do her best to represent the interests of all football fans up and down the country. We have made no secret that we want fans to be placed at the heart of their football clubs.

The Government's Expert Working Group, which was set up last October to tackle issues on Football Supporter Ownership and Engagement, will report to the Minister for Sport by the end of this November. The report will set out recommendations aimed at helping supporters' groups have stronger links with the executives and owners running clubs, along with incentives for how we can get more clubs to be supporter owned.

The group has representatives on its board from across Government, from the football authorities and supporter bodies, including Supporters Direct, the organisation the



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Government helped set up and which continues to help fans gain influence in the running and ownership of their clubs.

The Minister will consider the report fully and adopt as many of the group's recommendations as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Syed Ali

Ministerial Support Team

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