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Digital, Culture,
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Mr Nigel Fletcher
FA EQUALITYNOW

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Dear Nigel,

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 May to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, regarding the fan-led review of football. I appreciate you sharing your thoughts with the department, and they have been passed on to officials working on the review. I understand that FA EQUALITYNOW will be presenting to the review panel in the next few days. I am replying as Minister for Sport and Tourism.

As announced in the Secretary of State's Oral Statement of 19 April, Tracey Crouch MP is chairing the review and is engaging extensively with fans to ensure their experiences are at the centre of the review. As a former Minister for Sport, and an ardent football fan herself, she is well-placed to deliver on this key aspect. Fans make football, and the government is committed to ensuring their views are at the heart of the review.

Given the seriousness of these issues, we are moving at pace on the review. Meetings with fan groups and other stakeholders are well underway and the chair and panel are meeting regularly to discuss progress. We have announced that we expect an interim report from the review before the summer and a full report in the autumn. As you may have seen through the publication of the review's terms of reference, ministers and officials have collated ideas and issues from the numerous meetings with stakeholders over the past year.

This will be a comprehensive examination of the English football system looking at issues of ownership (including consideration of the Owners' and Directors' Tests), governance and funding through the football pyramid, including the women's game and lower league football. We know how important this review is for fans across the country and rest assured it will be an opportunity for them to have their voices heard.

Nigel Huddleston MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport and Tourism

