

STAR's Comments on the Government's Response to the House of Commons Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport's Enquiry into Football Governance

We welcome the Government's strong, positive response to the Select Committee's recommendations, particularly with regard to:-

1. The setting up of a football licensing body with appropriate power, skills, accountability and representation;
2. The recognition of the value of the contribution that supporters' groups make in different ways in the running of their football clubs. In particular, we are pleased that this is reflected in a practical way by the encouragement of the football authorities to provide long-term funding to Supporters Direct and other high-profile supporters group representative bodies; and
3. The commitment to legislate if the football authorities fail to put forward changes that make 'a lasting and substantive difference'.

It remains our view, however, that, in the absence of a new, powerful, external regulator backed by government legislation, the proposed reforms to the FA Board do not go far enough: a clear majority of truly independent directors, rather than the two proposed, is a necessary minimum change to enable the FA Board to stand up to the powerful vested interests within the professional game.

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(T/A 'STAR' – Supporters' Trust at Reading)

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