



All Party Parliamentary Group for Football Supporters

All Party Parliamentary Group for Football

Mr Richard Masters
Chief Executive of The Premier League

Mr Mark Bullingham
Chief Executive of The Football Association

By Email

7th June 2022

Policing and Organisation of the UEFA Champions League Final 2022

Dear Mr Masters and Mr Bullingham,

We write jointly as the Chairs of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Football Supporters and the All Party Parliamentary Group for Football; in connection with the deeply disturbing and distressing scenes relayed across the media and social media both before, during and after the UEFA Champions League Final which took place on Saturday 28th May 2022 in Paris.

We're sure that you, like many football supporters around the world, were appalled and disgusted by the videos and accounts of supporters who were present outside of the Stade de France, and of their difficulties gaining entry into the stadium before and immediately after the match was due to kick off. Many of the accounts given from those in attendance, like our colleague Ian Byrne MP, share many of the hallmarks of the accounts from supporters in attendance at Hillsborough in 1989.

For too long supporters have been targeted and stereotyped; through kettling, insufficient stewarding, appalling crowd management; followed by an immediate assumption that any issues are the responsibility of the supporters themselves. Regrettably, the reaction from UEFA at the time and in the immediate aftermath followed this same pattern.

We do not believe that it is appropriate to leave UEFA and the French Authorities in charge of investigating their own clear failings.

As Liverpool Football Club are members of both The Premier League and The Football Association, and given the experience of thousands of fans who had their lives and wellbeing placed in jeopardy at the hands of UEFA and the French Authorities; we would strongly urge both of your organisations to liaise with colleagues in La Liga and the Royal Spanish Football Association to call on the events of Saturday 28th May to be investigated in full through a full and completely independent Inquiry.

We cannot sit by and watch the events which unfolded on Saturday 28th May once again be swept under the carpet while those truly responsible evade scrutiny and accountability; and as such we are sharing this correspondence with the Football Supporters Association and Football Supporters Europe.

We hope you will give this proposal a positive response and we look forward to your timely reply.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Mearns', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ian Mearns MP
Chair of the APPG for Football Supporters

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clive Betts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Clive Betts MP
Chair of the APPG for Football