



## Craig Whittaker MP

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### **Governance in Football and the FA.**

Thank you for contacting me about football governance. I recognise that work must be done to strengthen the integrity and of the sport and to ensure that it is effectively governed so that it flourishes in the future.

Ministers regularly meet with the FA and discuss a number of issues, including matters relating to integrity in football. The integrity of sport is absolutely paramount and we expect the highest standards of governance and transparency from our sports governing bodies.

UK Sport and Sport England launched its Code for Sports Governance in 2016. UK sports bodies and organisation that want to receive public funding have to adhere to this new Code to help ensure that the highest levels of ethical standards and leadership are present across sport in this country. Among the key principles outlined is a requirement that organisations shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations, undertake responsible financial strategic planning, and have appropriate controls and risk management procedures.

Tackling discrimination lies at the heart of the cross-government sport strategy "Sporting Future" and we want sport to be at the forefront of equality. The Government continues to work with National Governing Bodies and organisations such as Kick It Out, Stonewall and Women in Football to tackle discrimination in local, national and international sport. Our aim is to increase diversity among sporting organisations and to help the sport sector be more inclusive and welcoming to its spectators, participants and people in its workforce. The Code for Sport Governance stipulates that funded sporting organisations should publish information about their work to foster all aspects of diversity within their leadership and decision-making.

On the specific issue of allegations of corruption, I am encouraged that the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Karen Bradley, spoke to the FA following the allegations made last year, and it confirmed that it is working across football to investigate them. It is important that the FA demonstrates good governance, and that includes dealing effectively with those that look to tarnish its reputation. All the evidence presented to them must be investigated fully and the Government stands ready to assist in any way it can.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP