



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

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5 June 2025

Louie French MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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Dear Louie,

I am writing to follow up on the question you raised during the first Committee stage debate on 3rd June of the Football Governance Bill. You sought clarification on how Parliament will be able to scrutinise the Independent Regulator and how, more generally, the Regulator will be held to account.

Parliament's committees can conduct inquiries into, and take evidence on, any aspect of the work of the Regulator once it is established, including calling witnesses as the committees see fit. While this will be at the discretion of each committee, we would welcome this type of scrutiny to ensure the Regulator can be held to account for delivering its objectives.

As the sponsor of the Regulator, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will hold it to account through a "framework document" that outlines expectations of governance, responsibilities and accountability. The DCMS Select Committee can produce evidence, reports and commission inquiries on issues within its remit, including the Regulator and its functions once set up. They have already begun this, with their pre-appointment scrutiny hearing of the Chair. Other Select Committees may choose to scrutinise the Independent Football Regulator should they deem it relevant.

This is in addition to specific accountability measures for the levy, such as the approval of the Regulator's annual funding requirement by DCMS and HM Treasury. The Government believes these and other provisions across the Bill, such as the requirement for the Regulator to publish an annual report which is laid before Parliament, strike the right balance between accountability and independence.

You also raised the accounts and audit aspect of Schedule 2. As set out in the Bill, these are financial records, as kept by all Government departments and arms-length bodies. The Regulator must send a copy of each statement of accounts to the Secretary of State and the Comptroller and Auditor General as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the financial year to which the statement relates. The Comptroller and Auditor General will then scrutinise these accounts and produce a report on them. These reports and a certified statement will be sent to the Secretary of State, which will in turn be laid in Parliament.

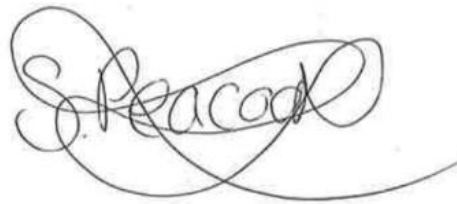


We agree it is good practice for the impacts of regulation to be monitored and evaluated post-implementation. This is why we added a review clause to the Bill whilst it was passing through the House of Lords, requiring the Secretary of State to review the operation and effect of the legislation, publish a report and lay it before Parliament, no later than five years after the final licensing provisions have been commenced.

Before publishing the report, the Secretary of State must consult the Regulator, the FA, each specified competition organiser, and other persons as appropriate. The Report will be laid before Parliament and so will aid long-term scrutiny of this regime.

I hope that gives you some reassurance that this new body will be able to be held accountable to Parliament and more generally to the wider public. I have placed a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Peacock', with a large, looping flourish extending from the end.

Stephanie Peacock MP
Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth