



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

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20 June 2025

Lincoln Jopp MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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Dear Lincoln,

I am writing to follow up on the question you raised during the third Committee stage debate on 10th June of the Football Governance Bill. You sought clarification on what reasonable assumptions we might expect a club to make in its business plan regarding expected television revenue in a season.

What is required of clubs in their business plans will be an operational decision for the IFR, and we expect that this will be set out in its guidance. This is also likely to vary depending on the circumstances and risks a club faces. So it would not be appropriate for me to preempt this.

For context, while it is true that there is some variance in how much a club will be paid based on how many of their matches are broadcast, all clubs receive a fixed minimum payment. For example, for the 2023/2024 Premier League season, every club received an equal share payment of the broadcast and central commercial revenue. This, per club, was £31.2 million (UK revenue) plus £55.7 million (international revenue). The English Football League has a similar system. So while there are some fluctuations in this revenue, clubs can appropriately plan.

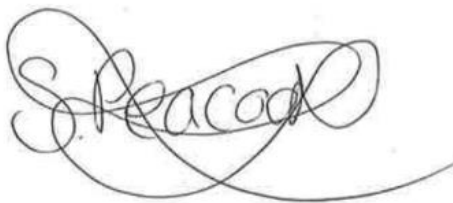
With this context in mind, we do not think it will be unduly challenging for clubs to undertake sensible business planning. Clubs should already be planning for a wide variety of scenarios, for example, failing to secure promotion or being relegated, which would have a much greater financial impact than a small difference in the number of matches that get broadcast.

Well-run clubs already plan for various different scenarios and potential adverse shocks. They know in advance how they will respond if they get relegated, fail to secure European football, or an injury damages the value of the star player they intend to sell. This approach to risk-management is a basic financial practice you would expect of most businesses. However, not all football clubs do this. That is why every licensed club will submit a financial plan that includes contingencies for adverse financial shocks, and will be expected to follow that plan and have the appropriate resources to support it.



I hope that gives you some reassurance that clubs will be able to plan for a range of foreseeable scenarios. 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, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

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