



Craig Guildford QPM VR DL  
**CHIEF CONSTABLE**

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Our Ref:  
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Dear Sarah Jones MP,

Thank you for your letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025 regarding the policing arrangements for the recent Maccabi Tel-Aviv fixture against Aston Villa.

I note your concerns regarding the intelligence and information that informed West Midlands Police's (WMP) recommendations to the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025. In respect of the recent press coverage concerning the information received regarding the Ajax v Maccabi fixture I can confirm the following:

In preparation to police the Aston Villa v Maccabi Tel Aviv football fixture, the Head of the WMP Football Unit met with representatives from the Dutch National Police via MS Teams on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025. The purpose of this meeting was to share information relating to the policing of the Ajax v Maccabi fixture, which took place in Amsterdam on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The discussions focused on policing strategies implemented by the Dutch Police before, during and after the match. The information shared during this meeting formed part of the wider intelligence picture that went on to inform our recommendations to the SAG. It would be my expectation of any Police Commander to consider incidents arising from previous fixtures and to speak directly to informed individuals in the relevant host force. This approach is to ensure that any policing plan has a sound basis for the benefit of spectators, the public and officers at the match.

I have personally discussed the details of this meeting with the Head of the WMP Football Unit and having spoken with him at length, I am satisfied with the reliability of his account of the information provided to him by the Dutch Police.

It is my understanding that on the 1<sup>st</sup> October the representatives of the Dutch Police were very clear as to the scale and impact of the Ajax v Maccabi match and the risks presented and that they would have concerns should a similar fixture be arranged again in Amsterdam. You will also be aware by way of separate briefing on sensitive matters connected to this event.

I assure you that West Midlands Police remain committed to ensuring that our decisions are based on robust and credible information and intelligence. We value our partnership with national and international policing colleagues and will continue to work collaboratively to maintain public safety.

For transparency I have attached the independent peer review conducted on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Given the nature of this document I would ask that it is not subject to publication or onward sharing.

Yours sincerely

**Craig Guildford QPM VR DL  
Chief Constable**