



Craig Guildford QPM VR DL
Chief Constable of West Midlands Police

By email only

24 November 2025

Dear Craig,

I understand that ACC Mike O'Hara as Gold Command for the Maccabi Tel-Aviv fixture against Aston Villa has recently written to Dame Karen Bradley as Chair of the Home Affairs Committee in response to her questions surrounding the decision-making around this event earlier in the month. This has also followed a period of engagement between your force and officials in the Home Office, and Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

We will both be aware of recent media coverage of the intelligence that the West Midlands Police used to inform your recommendation to ban Maccabi Tel-Aviv fans. I understand that following this, you are now carrying out a full debrief of the events leading up the match, and will be publishing the timeline of events, the decisions taken, and the rationale for your recommendations that were provided by your force into the Safety Advisory Group.

I am particularly concerned by the suggestion that there are now increasing doubts over the evidence reported publicly and provided privately to the Home Office by West Midlands Police to justify the recommendation made. This includes, but is not limited to, the policing of Maccabi Tel Aviv's fans when the team played in Amsterdam in November 2024, and the comments attributed in media reporting to a spokesman from the Dutch national police force which dispute these.

In light of these conflicting positions, and to better understand the sources of intelligence which informed your recommendations to the Safety Advisory Group, please can I request an urgent update from your force to clarify the provenance of the intelligence gathered and your confidence in this?

Very best wishes,

Sarah Jones MP
Minister of State for Policing and Crime