



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Nigel Huddleston MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for
Sport, Tourism & Heritage
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

21st August 2020

Dear Nigel

Non-League Football: Let Fans In

Thank you for your helpful reply to the letter drafted by Dame Cheryl Gillan and Tracey Crouch relating to the return of fans to Non-League Football Clubs. It was welcome news that Steps 3 and below are allowed to open their gates to a percentage of fans, which the FA has now clarified as 15% at Stage 1 and 30% at Stage 2. This will be a small step forward in providing financial support for clubs in the heart of English communities up and down the country.

However, there are still 67* Non-League Clubs in the National League and National League North and South, some of whom we represent in Parliament, whose gates remain closed to their fans, despite the fact that some of these clubs have smaller average attendances than those in Steps lower than them. While we appreciate that Steps 1 and 2 are defined as “elite” (players derive a living from playing) Clubs and players do not enjoy the same revenue streams as elite league football and will inevitably struggle financially from a continuing ban on spectators. It is also appreciated that the season’s start for National League Premier, Northern and Southern has been delayed but many will be playing friendlies as part of their pre-season training and therefore will need an income in order to pay players, grounds staff, facilities and so on.

We are therefore writing to you to urgently announce plans for the return of fans to Step 1 and 2 Clubs. This would be a huge relief to those trying to balance the finances of these clubs, whose future remains perilous but importance in our local communities should never be underestimated.

We look forward to receiving positive news.

Yours sincerely,

Tracey Crouch MP

Rt Hon Dame Cheryl Gillan DBE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

AFC Fylde – Mark Menzies MP

Alfreton Town FC – Nigel Mills MP

Altrincham FC – Sir Graham Brady MP

Barnet FC – Bob Blackman MP

Barrow AFC – Simon Fell MP

Bath City FC – Wera Hobhouse MP

Blyth Spartans AFC – Ian Levy MP

Bradford (Park Avenue) AFC – Judith Cummins MP

Bromley FC – Bob Stewart MP

Chesterfield FC – Toby Perkins MP

Chorley FC – Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP

Curzon Ashton FC – Angela Rayner MP

Dagenham & Redbridge FC – Jon Cruddas MP

Darlington FC – Peter Gibson MP

Dartford FC – Gareth Johnson MP

Dover Athletic FC – Natalie Elphicke MP

Dulwich Hamlet FC – Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP

Eastbourne Borough FC – Caroline Ansell MP

Eastleigh FC – Paul Holmes MP

Ebbsfleet United FC – Adam Holloway MP

Gateshead FC – Ian Mearns MP

Gloucester City AFC – Richard Graham MP

Hampton & Richmond Borough FC – Munira Wilson MP

Hartlepool United FC – Mike Hill MP

Hemel Hempstead Town FC – Rt Hon Sir Mike Penning [R]



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Hungerford Town FC – Laura Farris MP

Kettering Town FC – Philip Hollobone MP

Kidderminster Harriers FC – Mark Garnier MP

King's Lynn Town FC – James Wild MP

Maidstone United FC – Helen Grant MP

Notts County FC – Lilian Greenwood MP

Solihull Moors FC – Julian Knight MP

Southport FC – Damien Moore MP

Spennymoor Town FC – Dehenna Davison MP

Tonbridge Angels FC – Tom Tugendhat MP

Weymouth FC – Chris Loder MP

Woking FC – Jonathan Lord MP

Wrexham AFC – Sarah Atherton MP

Yeovil Town FC – Marcus Fysh MP

*14 of the 67 teams in the National League and National League North & South are represented by Members serving in Government, who are therefore unable to sign circular letters.