
Chair of the UK Statistics Authority, Sir Michael Scholar KCB

Malcolm Clarke
Football Supporters Federation
The Cherry Red Records Fans' Stadium – Kingsmeadow
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21 May 2009

Dear Mr Clarke

STATISTICS PUBLISHED BY THE FOOTBALL LICENSING AUTHORITY

Thank you for your recent letter regarding annual injury statistics among football spectators produced by the Football Licensing Authority (FLA). I apologise for the delay in responding. Thank you also for the report of your investigation into these statistics, which I read with particular interest.

The Authority's remit is set out in the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007* in respect of promoting and safeguarding official statistics for the public good. Organisations that may produce official statistics are defined in the Act as either Crown bodies or certain non-Crown bodies included in secondary legislation ('Official Statistics Orders'). The current status of the FLA is that it is a non-Crown body that has, to date, not yet been included in an Official Statistics Order because it has been assumed not to be a significant producer of statistics. Responsibility for determining the scope of organisations included in Official Statistics Orders rests with the Cabinet Office, and I am copying this letter to David Deaton at the Cabinet Office to ensure that the points you raise are considered in the next review of the organisations listed in the secondary legislation.

I note the points you make about the relevance of these statistics to public policy concerning football spectator safety, that the FLA describe these statistics as an important indicator of spectator safety, and the quality and use of these statistics. I am copying our correspondence to the Head of Profession for Statistics at the DCMS to invite her to take a view on the points you raise, and I would be pleased to learn about any response they may make to you.

I would like to thank you again for bringing this matter to the Authority's attention and I am sending a copy of our correspondence to John de Quidt at the FLA.

Yours sincerely



Sir Michael Scholar KCB

Copies: David Deaton, Statistical Reform Team, Cabinet Office; Vivien Avery, Head of Profession for Statistics, DCMS; John de Quidt, Chief Executive, Football Licensing Authority