

# — EVERTON — FAN ADVISORY — BOARD —

Alison Brittain CBE  
Chair, The Premier League

30 November 2023

I am writing as Chair of the Everton Fan Advisory Board (FAB), to seek clarification about the steps the Premier League has taken to consider the interests of and impact on supporters, as part of the process to charge Everton Football Club with breaches to the Profit & Sustainability Rules.

By way of background, the Everton FAB is an independent body comprising members directly elected by Everton supporters and members elected by a series of representative organisations covering the broader Everton fan base across the globe. The FAB was formed in July 2022, following extensive consultation, and in response to the fallout of the failed European Super League proposals and the subsequent Government Fan Led Review into Football Governance.

We have welcomed the positive direction in ensuring that supporters have a stronger voice in the game and the proposals for the introduction of an Independent Regulator to safeguard the future of football clubs for the benefit of communities and fans.

We have also noted the commitments from the Premier League to reinforce meaningful supporter engagement. In launching the Fan Engagement Standard in March 2023, the Premier League rightly stated that “supporters have always been the lifeblood of football”, “there is no doubt they are essential to the ongoing success of the game” and that “it is vital we ensure the voices of supporters are not only heard in the stands, but also when it comes to having a say on key issues relating to their clubs”.

It is in this context that we would like to express our significant concerns that at no point during the process which led to (what is, in our opinion) the disproportionate penalty imposed on Everton Football Club or, in considering and making recommendations about the potential sanctions that should be applied to the breach, has the Premier League considered or taken into account the views of supporters.

Developing a meaningful understanding of perspectives and engaging with key stakeholders are well accepted principles of effective regulation. One of the guiding principles of the Fan Led Review is to ensure that regulatory sanctions should avoid impacting fans, wherever possible.

Can you therefore clarify what measures the Premier League took to effectively consider the impact or interests of supporters in recommending an unprecedented sporting sanction? Can you also confirm

which, if any, groups were consulted and how their feedback was factored into the Premier League considerations?

Whilst we accept that Everton Football Club breached the rules, as does the Club itself, whilst liaising with you after asking for guidance in an unprecedented period for English football, we do not believe that a 10 point penalty (or more) is proportionate for the offence committed. It directly impacts supporters, who have had no influence on the running of the Club and, as has been widely reported, have made clear their concerns about its leadership, direction and operations. Such a severe penalty also potentially places at risk the significant benefits to the community that the new stadium development will bring in regenerating North Liverpool and providing a boost to job creation and the local economy.

The Fan Advisory Board would be grateful if you could provide answers to the questions I've set out above and we would also ask that you ensure that the views of supporters are taken into account within the current appeals process, by way of a witness statement or formal evidence.

Given the potential implications for the broader football community, I have copied this correspondence to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the Shadow Secretary of State and the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Football Supporters, and the Chief Executive of the Football Supporters' Association.

Yours sincerely,

**Dave Kelly**

Chair, Everton Fan Advisory Board

Cc: Rt Hon Lucy Frazer MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport  
Thangam Debbonaire MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport  
Ian Mearns MP, Chair, All Party Parliamentary Group for Football Supporters  
Kevin Miles, Chief Executive, Football Supporters' Association