

**PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PE1319:
QUESTIONS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(See 'Written submissions' for responses)**

TUESDAY 26 JUNE 2012—

The Scottish Football Association—

- The Committee welcomes the establishment of a Scottish FA, SPL and SFL formal working party to review the existing system of training compensation for youth players. The Committee draws the attention of the working party to the evidence received by this Committee on the issues of “contracts” and “compensation” payments. When is it expected that the review will be complete?

TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2012—

SportScotland—

- As a follow-up to the letter to the Committee of 28 February 2012 the Committee would be grateful if SportScotland would provide a summary of recent (over the last 3 years) returns at all levels of football for monies invested in the SFA

Scottish Football Association—

- The Committee was interested to hear about the IFK Gothenburg system which does not involve players under the age of 16 effectively being under contract. In light of this, does the SFA have any plans to look at the current system of young players being “signed” and the compensation payment arrangements?

TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2012—

Scottish Government—

- What is your view on the petitioners' call to increase the target from 2 hours to 4 hours of curricular physical activity
- How does the Scottish Government monitor the use of public funds paid to the SFA from the Cashback for Communities Programme?

Scottish Football Association—

- As discussed at the evidence session at the Public Petitions Committee meeting on 11 January 2011, what action is the SFA taking on the issues of “contracts” and “compensation” in relation to children under the age of 16?
- The Henry McLeish Review of Scottish football recommended that a review group be set up to consider a number of related issues facing children and young people in football. Has this review group been set up?
- Please forward a sample of an authorised registration form and any associated guidance / documents which a player and parent would normally be expected to sign.

SportScotland—

- How do you maintain accountability for public funds distributed by the SFA to its member clubs?
- Does SportScotland have, or does it intend to develop, a long-term plan to provide quality artificial playing surfaces for football training and playing in all regions?

PFA Scotland—

- What are your views on the issues raised in the petition, particularly the legal status and appropriateness of professional SFA clubs entering into “contracts” with children under the age of 16 and the appropriateness of “compensation” payments for the transfer of players under the age of 16?

Mr William Gibbons, Compass Chambers Advocates—

- What are your views/experience on the issues of the legal status and appropriateness of professional SFA clubs entering into “contracts” with children under the age of 16 and the appropriateness of “compensation” payments for the transfer of players under the age of 16?

Falkirk Football Club—

- What is the practice of Falkirk Football Club in relation to entering into agreements with parents of players who are under the age of 16? What guidance is provided and what forms are parents / players invited to sign?

TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2011—

Scottish Government—

- Please would you provide more detail on the specific outcomes of your discussions with the SFA
- What stage is the re-refresh of the Youth Action Plan at?

Scottish Football Association—

- Following the Public Petitions Committee meeting on 11 January 2011, what action has the SFA taken with regard to the issues raised?

Professional Footballers’ Association Scotland

Range of Scottish Football Clubs

Scottish Youth Parliament

Scottish Youth Football Association

Scottish Schools Football Association

- What are your views on the issues raised in this petition?

FC Barcelona—

- Could you provide an overview of the youth development policy within FC Barcelona and how this has evolved over time?
- How does this policy work in practice?
- What are the ages of the young players who are involved?
- Are young players (those under 16 years of age) placed under any form of contract? If so, does the contract require the signature of a parent?
- If there are contracts, do they involve any remuneration to the player by FC Barcelona?
- What arrangements are made for continuing a young player's education?
- Are there restrictions on young players who are being developed by a professional club, for example would a young player be restricted from playing for other teams such as a school team?

IFK Gothenburg—

- Could you provide an overview of the youth development policy within your Club and how this has evolved over time?
- How does this policy work in practice?
- What are the ages of the young players who are involved?
- Are young players (those under 16 years of age) placed under any form of contract? If so, does the contract require the signature of a parent?
- If there are contracts, do they involve any remuneration to the player by your Club?
- What arrangements are made for continuing a young player's education?
- Are there restrictions on young players who are being developed by a professional club, for example would a young player be restricted from playing for other teams such as a school team?

TUESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2010—

Scottish Football Association—

- When will the football review group be established, what is its remit and what is the timetable for it to report?
- What were the criteria used to decide on the membership of the group and for not taking evidence in public?
- Will you consider widening the membership of the group to include a representative of children's interests e.g. Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People? Would you include interested parties such as the petitioner?
- How public and accessible will the work of the group be and how will active public participation throughout actually take part?
- Will the issue of improving facilities be considered by the group and, if so, precisely what?
- Will you provide the Committee with an example of the registration forms which the football clubs are using?

- What is your response to the point made by the STUC (PE1319/L) about the need for clarification and of a review of the current position?

Scottish Government—

- What is your position on the operation of the Scottish Youth Football Initiative?

Henry McLeish, Chair, Scottish Football Review Committee—

- Will you please provide a detailed response to each of the points raised in the submission from the petitioner of 17 September 2010 (PE1319/M)?

Scottish Child Law Centre—

- Will you please respond to the letter of 21 April which sought a response to detailed questions?

TUESDAY 20 APRIL 2010—

Scottish Government—

Scottish Football Association—

Scottish Football League—

Scottish Premier League—

Scottish Amateur Football Association—

Scottish Youth Football Association—

STUC—

Scottish Child Law Centre—

Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People—

- ❖ will you carry out the investigations asked for in the petition? [*Scottish Government, SFA, SFL & SPL only*]
- ❖ what are your views on the petition and the issues discussed at the meeting on 20 April?
- ❖ what concerns do you have about the demands and impact (the legal, moral and general as the petition states) this is having on under 16 year olds signing on with professional football clubs?
- ❖ what actions need to be taken, when, and by whom?
- ❖ what evidence do you have as to the ages at which children and entering into registrations/contracts with professional clubs?
- ❖ what is your view on the legality of such registrations/contracts and the stipulations they make on the children concerned?
- ❖ are these registrations/contracts fully compliant with national policies (e.g. the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991) and international policies such as the European Convention on Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child?
- ❖ what is the timetable for the Scottish Football Review Committee to report? [*SFA only*]
- ❖ what actions are you taking in response to the report of the Scottish Football Review Committee [*Scottish Government only*]

- ❖ as a public funder of the SFA what influence do you have on it in respect or issues 1-4 in the petition? [*Scottish Government only*]

KNVB (Royal Dutch Football Association)—

- ❖ what are your views on the petition) specifically points 1, 3 & 4) and the issues discussed at the meeting on 20 April?
- ❖ what experiences can you share with the approach taken to promoting and supporting youth football in the Netherlands?
- ❖ what registration process is in place between professional clubs and under 16 year olds in the Netherlands?

Selection of local authorities (Glasgow, Edinburgh, North Ayrshire, Dundee)—

- ❖ what are your views on the petition and the issues discussed at the meeting on 20 April?
- ❖ what monitoring do you do on under 16 year olds who are entering into these registrations/contracts with professional football clubs?
- ❖ what specific concerns have you raised either with individual clubs or with the football authorities?
- ❖ what is your view on the impact the current system is having on the education and welfare of under 16 year olds?

Department for Work and Pensions—

- ❖ what are your views on the petition (specifically points 1, 3 & 4) and the issues discussed at the meeting on 20 April?
- ❖ do you have any comments to make, from an employment rights point of view, with respect to under 16 year olds entering into registrations/contracts with professional football clubs?
- ❖ is this an issue which has been brought to your attention in England and what consideration have you given to it?