

PE1319/H



THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

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Our Ref: DAL/CK

Your Ref:

15th June, 2010.

Mr. Frank McAveety, MSP,
Convener,
Public Petitions Committee,
Scottish Parliament,
Edinburgh,
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr. McAveety,

Petition PE1319

This letter deals with the questions arising from Committee Meetings dated 20th April, 2010, and the letter from the Public Petitions Committee of the above reference dated 21st April, 2010.

The Scottish Football League is responsible for the governance of 30 professional football clubs throughout Scotland, which delivers football at all age levels throughout the communities of Scotland.

We participate fully in the SFA's Youth Performance and Initiative programmes, and are governed at this level by the Articles and Rules of our aforementioned Governing body, the SFA.

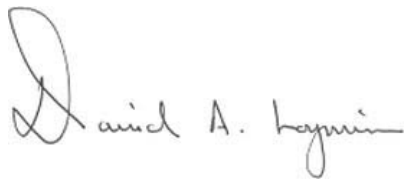
We would, therefore, like to associate our response to that which you have received from the SFA, as these are our governing principles at Youth level. For the sake of further clarity, however, I would like to highlight the following:-

1. There is no contract between players who have not yet attained school leaving age and any SFL clubs.
2. There is, however, a registration process which outlines an individual's eligibility to play for his club at this level. This process has a parental consent requirement for players under 16 years of age.
3. There is no form of financial consideration between the player and club as part of this registration.
4. Players registered with a SFL club by means of a Youth form are governed by the registration procedures of the SFA, and the Rules of the SFL.

5. This system of registration is a requirement of football's world Governing body, FIFA, for the protection of individual players and integrity of the game.
6. We continue to lobby at all levels for investment in the infrastructure of our game, in particular in facilities and playing fields.
7. We have welcomed the report on grassroots development of our game from Henry McLeish and will continue to work with Henry, the SPL, SFA and other stakeholders within football, as the report enters its second stage.

I am happy to summarise by saying that our system of registration and development of young players is meeting the needs of young players and providing a pathway for them to achieve their own footballing ambitions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Longmuir". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David Longmuir,
Chief Executive/Secretary