

**PE1319/VVV**

Petitioners submission of 13 November 2018

You may be aware of a letter sent to the Clerk of the Public Petitions Committee by Mr Kenneth Hamilton and his son Rory Hamilton.

This letter sets out the experience Mr Hamilton's son Rory and his father endured following an application to the SFA Wellbeing Panel after Rory requested release from his registration with Livingston FC.

Rory was trapped by Livingston as he had entered into the 3 year rolling registration which gives the clubs total authority to retain the player, even against his will. This registration forms an important part of our longstanding Petition.

This registration and its appalling imbalance in favour of professional football clubs in Scotland has, and continues to frustrate and anger the members of all of the Petitions Committees since our Petition was first heard in 2010. The intransigence of the SFA, SPFL and their member clubs to make any meaningful proposals to redress this unacceptable imbalance of power even following very strong criticism from the Official Health and Sport Committee Report '*Child Protection in in Sport*' published on the 26th April 2017 is unacceptable. We refer in particular to sections 112 and 113.

Mr Hamilton's letter clearly demonstrates in our view that the action recommended by the Health and Sport Report must be implemented in full as a matter of urgency.

At a time when the Scottish Football Association is almost certainly about to seek government financial assistance for their purchase of Hampden Stadium despite having given their member clubs some ten million pounds only a few short months ago, in the full knowledge of the purchase of this stadium beggars belief.

We hope that the importance of Mr Hamilton and Rory's joint letter will persuade your committee to call them both to a future oral evidence session. Both feel given the number of youngsters involved in Club Academy Scotland they would be able to give some real insight and expose the ruthless nature of the clubs in Scotland. We would welcome as well Alyson Evans, SFA Player Protection officer and Realgrassroots to provide to give their views on these matters.