

By John Woodhouse,
Maria Lalic,
Sue Holland

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Football governance - time for change?



Summary

- 1 Background
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Summary

In April 2021, in response to long standing concerns about football regulation in England, the Government announced a [Fan-led review of football governance](#). The review was brought forward following the (abandoned) plans for a European Super League. The review, led by Tracey Crouch MP, will:

- consider the [Owners' and Directors' Test](#) and whether it is fit for purpose.
- assess calls for the creation of a single, independent football regulator.
- examine the effectiveness of measures to improve club engagement with supporters.
- investigate ways league administrators could better scrutinise clubs' finances.
- examine the flow of money through the 'football pyramid'.
- explore governance structures in other countries, including ownership models, and whether any aspects could be beneficially translated to the English league system.
- look at interventions to protect the identity of clubs.
- examine the relationship between club interests, league systems and their place within the overall football pyramid.

The Review has been welcomed by groups such as the Football Supporters' Association.

Interim findings and recommendations were [published](#) on 22 July 2021. These included the recommendation that a new Independent Regulator for English Football should be established, through legislation, "to protect the future of key aspects of our national game". A final report is expected to be published in the autumn.

This Library briefing looks at the background to some of the issues being considered (e.g. club ownership and the financial sustainability of the game) and provides sources of further information.

1 Background

There are ongoing concerns about the state of English football including:

- the ownership of clubs;
- the financial sustainability of the game.

In a July 2020 report, the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee said that football's business model was "[not sustainable](#)". It called for "essential reforms to financial models, management structures and diversity and inclusion" that would benefit the game in the long term.¹

Other MPs have called for changes to how the game is run. During an October 2020 debate, Clive Efford argued that the Covid-19 pandemic had "[turned a spotlight on the weaknesses in the game's governance and the inequity of the distribution of the game's wealth](#)."²

Helen Grant, a former Sports Minister, introduced a [Football \(Regulation\) Bill](#) in the last parliamentary session.³ The Bill would have established an independent football regulator to license clubs in England, distribute money within the game, review club finances, and take forward issues that mattered to supporters' groups.⁴ The Bill has not been carried over to this session.

The [Football Supporters' Association](#) (FSA, the representative body for supporters in England and Wales) has launched a "[Sustain the Game](#)" campaign. This is supported by the [All-Party Parliamentary Group for Football Supporters](#).

An "[Our Beautiful Game](#)" group has called for legislation to be introduced to set up a new regulatory body for football. The Group's members include David Bernstein (former Football Association chairman), Helen Grant, Andy Burnham (Mayor of Greater Manchester and former Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport), and Gary Neville (former Manchester United and England player).

¹ Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [Impact of COVID-19 on DCMS sectors](#), HC 291, July 2020, paras 23-7

² [HC Deb 25 November 2020 c415WH](#)

³ For details of other Private Members' Bills, see the [parliamentary database](#)

⁴ The Bill had its [first reading](#) on 26 January 2021

1.1

Ownership

As the FSA has noted, the role of a club owner in the UK varies according to the ownership structure:

Some clubs are wholly or mainly owned by individuals. Others are owned by larger companies or other financial institutions. Some are owned by a consortium of individuals or companies. Others, particularly fan-owned clubs, are owned through a trust following a community share issue. It is unusual for a football club to be owned by a large number of separate shareholders, for example as a “public company” traded on a Stock Exchange.

However, whichever model of ownership applies, the owners usually take the major decisions affecting a club.⁵

Who can own a club? The Owners’ and Directors’ Tests

The Premier League’s (PL) Owners’ and Directors’ Test sets out requirements that would prohibit an individual from becoming an owner or director of a club. These include criminal convictions for a range of offences, a ban by a sporting or professional body, or breaches of certain football regulations (e.g. match-fixing). The test is applied to prospective owners and directors, who are then subject to a review on a seasonal basis.⁶ The criteria of the current Test are set out in Section F of the [Premier League Handbook 2020/21](#).

The English Football League (EFL) has its own Owners’ and Directors’ Test for clubs in its competitions. The current Test is set out in [Appendix 3](#) to the [EFL’s Rules and Regulations](#).

Concerns about ownership

In a July 2011 report on football governance, the then Culture, Media and Sport Committee observed that ownership usually only becomes a governance issue [when the actions of owners are seen to threaten the sustainability of clubs](#). The challenge was therefore “to create an environment where clubs are protected from over-ambitious or otherwise incompetent or duplicitous owners exploiting their football club, and good owners are encouraged to stay in the game”.⁷

The Committee noted that the commercialisation of football during the 1980s and 1990s had brought changes to the way that many clubs were owned.

⁵ FSA, [Proposals to the Football Association – Improving the regulation of professional football clubs](#), September 2019, Appendix B, para 7

⁶ Premier League website, [What is the Owners’ and Directors’ Test?](#) [accessed 9 June 2021]

⁷ Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [Football governance](#), HC 792-I 2010–12, July 2011, para 161; The Government [responded](#) (Cm 8207) to the report in October 2011; The Committee published a [follow-up report](#) (HC 509) in January 2013. The Government’s [response](#) (HC 156 2013-14) to that report was published in May 2013.

Clubs had once been owned and run by local business people⁸ but were increasingly being bought by entrepreneurs from across the UK or abroad. The Committee suggested that the growth of foreign owners could be problematic because they:

- might be less inclined to support measures in the long-term interests of the English game.
- could underestimate the difficulties of succeeding in the English game.
- could take decisions that clashed with the identity of their club.

The Committee noted that foreign owners might be more likely to seek to own a club for non-football related reasons that would reflect poorly on the reputation of the game.

It could also be harder for the English authorities to judge whether prospective foreign owners were likely to be “fit and proper owners” of a club. The Committee referred to Thaksin Shinawatra, the former owner of Manchester City, who critics claimed was not fit and proper and who had bought it for “purely political reasons”.⁹

The Committee called for robust ownership rules as part of a new licensing model for the game.¹⁰ Such a model has not been introduced.

Ongoing concerns

During a November 2020 debate, Damian Collins MP, a member of the Committee when the 2011 report was published, noted that [the issues it raised were still “unresolved”](#).¹¹ He said there was a “strong argument” for a regulator with statutory powers.¹²

One area of ongoing concern is the increase in foreign owners and their motives.¹³ Most recently, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund consortium has been attempting to buy Newcastle United from Mike Ashley, the current owner. The consortium is headed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The bid has been controversial because of Saudi Arabia's human rights

⁸ The Committee gave Steve Gibson as an example – he is still the owner of Middlesbrough Football Club

⁹ [Football governance](#), July 2011, para 166-171

¹⁰ *Ibid*, para 192

¹¹ [HC Deb 25 November 2020 c420WH](#)

¹² [HC Deb 25 November 2020 c422WH](#)

¹³ [“Amnesty criticises Manchester City over ‘sportswashing’](#)”, *Observer*, 11 November 2018

record.¹⁴ Critics have pointed to the fact that the PL's Owners' and Directors' Test does not refer to human rights.¹⁵

In April 2021, the Prime Minister said that football club takeovers were "commercial matters for the parties concerned".¹⁶

1.2

Financial sustainability

The July 2011 [report from the Culture, Media and Sport Committee](#) also examined the financial state of the game.¹⁷ It found that "one of the big challenges facing English football is not generating revenue but controlling expenditure".¹⁸ According to the Committee, one of the reasons for the level of debt in the game was the lure of the Premier League:

Since the Premier League became the top tier of the football pyramid, the financial benefits associated with its membership have incentivised clubs continually to increase their expenditure to gain promotion into the Premier League, consolidate their position in the Premier League or achieve the additional rewards associated with a top four placing and entry into the European Champions League. Teams in the Premier League spend up to the hilt to stay there, and teams in the Championship spend up to the hilt to get there.¹⁹

The challenge identified by the Committee remains. Clive Efford MP, for example, has commented on the "ridiculous" situation in the Championship where clubs "spend 107% of their turnover on players' wages":

...That clearly needs regulating. It is driven, to some degree, by clubs that come from the premier league and have the solidarity money. However, the fact remains that to get into the premier league, some clubs are running huge risks, and we do not have the

¹⁴ ["Newcastle United deal was always 'blatant' Saudi sportswashing"](#), Amnesty press release, 30 July 2020; ["English Premier League: Adopt Human Rights Policy"](#), HRW News Release, 21 July 2020; ["Newcastle takeover: Sale of Premier League club off as Saudi Arabian group withdraw"](#), Independent, 30 July 2020; ["UK: new human rights Owners' and Directors' test proposed for Premier League football"](#), Amnesty press release, 5 August 2020

¹⁵ The PL's [Owners' and Directors' Test](#) is applied to prospective owners and directors, who are then subject to a review on a seasonal basis. The criteria of the Test are set out in Section F (pages 129-35) of the [Premier League Handbook 2020/21](#).

The English Football League (EFL) has its own Owner's and Directors' Test for clubs in its competitions. This is set out in [Appendix 3](#) to the [EFL's Rules and Regulations](#).

¹⁶ [PQ 181471](#) [on football club takeovers], answered 20 April 2021; The [parliamentary database](#) includes further material on the proposed takeover of Newcastle United

¹⁷ [Football governance](#), July 2011, chapter 4

¹⁸ Ibid, para 66

¹⁹ Ibid, para 79

power in the regulations at the moment to prevent that from happening.²⁰

In its [July 2020 report](#), the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee noted that several English Football League clubs had faced “huge financial difficulties”:

Bury FC, for example, was expelled from the EFL in August 2019 after its financial issues escalated, including the owner failing to pay debts and staff. After a series of financial issues, Bolton Wanderers was taken over by administrators in May 2019 due to an unpaid tax bill of approximately £1.2m. During the 2017–18 season, Premier League clubs made £4.8 billion with combined operating profits (before transfers) of £900 million, whereas the 72 clubs in the Championship, League One and League Two made combined losses of £411 million.²¹

The Committee concluded that the current business model was not sustainable.

1.3 Football Supporters’ Association campaign

The FSA campaigns in areas such as [supporter engagement](#) with clubs; [diversity](#); the [introduction of “safe standing”](#); and the [promotion of supporter/community ownership](#). It is a founder member of [Football Supporters Europe](#).

The FSA has launched a [“Sustain the Game”](#) campaign. The [FSA website](#) summarises the campaign’s principles as follows:

1. Protect our clubs – football clubs are community assets and an important expression of individual and local identity, they deserve legal protection and urgent support to secure their future.
2. Transparency – everyone has a right to know who owns their club, and how clubs and the authorities operate. Owners are custodians of clubs on behalf of all of us.
3. Financial controls – fans want rules with real teeth which are independently enforced, clubs and leagues can’t be left to regulate themselves.

²⁰ [HC Deb 25 November 2020 c418WH](#)

²¹ Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [Impact of COVID-19 on DCMS sectors](#), HC 291, July 2020, para 25

4. Strengthen the pyramid – football as a whole is wealthy, but we need a smarter and fairer use of the money in the game to encourage sustainability.

5. Supporter engagement – fans are the lifeblood of the game, they need a voice in their clubs and on all issues that affect them and their communities.

In September 2019, [the FSA published proposals to improve the regulation of football clubs in England](#). The proposals include appendices on:

- a code of practice on the stewardship of clubs;
- people seeking to become owners of clubs;
- people seeking to become directors of clubs;
- the Owners’ and Directors’ Tests “disqualifying conditions”.

1.4

“Our Beautiful Game” campaign

[Our Beautiful Game](#) describes itself as “a diverse group of people who share both a deep passion for English football and an equally profound concern about its current state”.²²

The members of the group are:

- David Bernstein (former Football Association chairman).
- David Davies (Former FA Executive Director).
- Helen Grant MP (former Sports Minister).
- Andy Burnham (Mayor of Greater Manchester and former Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport).
- Gary Neville (former Manchester United and England player).
- Lord Mervyn King of Lothbury (Former Governor of the Bank of England).
- Denise Lewis (former Olympic Gold Medal Winner).
- Greg Scott (Lawyer, Memery Crystal LLP).

²² [Our Beautiful Game website, About Us](#) [accessed 3 August 2021]

The group has published a [Manifesto for Change](#) (October 2020) that argues for the introduction of a regulator, supported by statutory powers, to reform the game. According to the group, this is “the only realistic way to bring real change, stability and long-term health to professional and grass roots football”.²³

1.5 Fan-led review announced (April 2021)

The Conservative Party 2019 Manifesto included [a commitment to set up a fan-led review of football governance](#). This would include consideration of the Owners’ and Directors’ Test and would “work with fans and clubs towards introducing safe standing”.²⁴

In April 2021, in response to plans for a twelve team European Super League²⁵, Oliver Dowden, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, [announced that the fan-led review was beginning](#). He told the Commons:

...it is clearer than ever that we need a proper examination of the long-term future of football. To many fans in this country, the game is now almost unrecognisable from a few decades ago. Season after season, year after year, football fans demonstrate unwavering loyalty and passion by sticking by their clubs, but their loyalty is being abused by a small number of individuals who wield an incredible amount of power and influence. If the past year has taught us anything, it is that football is nothing without its fans.

These owners should remember that they are only temporary custodians of their clubs, and they forget fans at their peril. That is why, over the past few months, I have been meeting with fans and representative organisations to develop our proposals for a fan-led review. I had always been clear that I did not want to launch this until football had returned to normal following the pandemic. Sadly, these clubs have made it clear that I have no choice. They have decided to put money before fans, so today I have been left with no choice but to formally trigger the launch of our fan-led review of football...²⁶

The Review, chaired by Tracey Crouch MP, the former Sports Minister, will:

²³ Our Beautiful Game website, [Our proposal](#) [accessed 3 August 2021]

²⁴ Conservative Party, [Get Brexit Done: Unleash Britain’s Potential](#), 2019, p26

²⁵ Plans for the Super League were quickly abandoned after widespread criticism – see [“European Super League: All six Premier League teams withdraw from competition”](#), BBC Sport, 21 April 2021. The plans received extensive media coverage and are not discussed here but a selection of material is set out in the further reading section of this paper.

²⁶ [HC Deb 19 April 2021 cc676-7](#)

- Consider the multiple Owners' and Directors' Tests and whether they are fit for purpose, including the addition of further criteria.
- Assess calls for the creation of a single, independent football regulator to oversee the sport's regulations and compliance, and its relationship with the regulatory powers of The FA and other football bodies.
- Examine the effectiveness of measures to improve club engagement with supporters, such as structured dialogue, that were introduced on the back of the Expert Working Group.
- Investigate ways league administrators could better scrutinise clubs' finances on a regular basis.
- Examine the flow of money through the football pyramid, including solidarity and parachute payments, and broadcasting revenue.
- Explore governance structures in other countries, including ownership models, and whether any aspects could be beneficially translated to the English league system.
- Look at interventions to protect club identity, including geographical location and historical features (e.g. club badges).
- Examine the relationship between club interests, league systems and their place within the overall football pyramid.²⁷

Details of [the Review Panel members](#) were announced on 22 May 2021.

A final report is expected in the autumn. This will be presented to the Minister for Sport, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and the Football Association on what steps should be taken and how to implement them.

Response to the Review

In the Commons on 19 April 2021, Jo Stevens, the Shadow Secretary of State, welcomed the review but queried the time it had taken to start:

[Labour has] repeatedly urged the Government to get on with their promised fan-led review of football—a promise that they made in 2019... We know that Members across the House have supported reform for the past 11 years of Conservative-led Governments, so it is time for the Government to get off the subs bench and show some

²⁷ DCMS, [Terms of reference for the fan-led review of football governance](#), 22 April 2021

leadership on the pitch, because we need reform of football....why the long delay? Why create the vacuum that has allowed these super-league proposals the space and ability to become a reality? Eleven years have been wasted when a small amount of Government time could have been found to bring primary legislation to the House to sort out the problems...²⁸

The Shadow Secretary of State also criticised the membership of the Panel:

This hasn't got the look or feel of being fan-led.

Of the 10 members of this panel only one is a fan representative.

Fans are still waiting for ministers to explain how their views and ideas will be listened to so that we can all be confident that this review really will live up to the Government's promise that it will be led by the fans.²⁹

FSA

Kevin Miles, the FSA's Chief Executive and one of the Panel members said there was a "once in a generation opportunity to reset the finance and regulation of football" and that regulation had to be "independent of the financial interests that are leeching off the game".³⁰

Premier League

The Premier League's Chief Executive, Richard Masters, said that the Review would have "the interests of fans and clubs at its centre and we look forward to playing our part".³¹

Interim findings and recommendations (July 2021)

On 22 July 2021, Tracey Crouch set out the Review's interim findings and recommendations [in a letter](#) to Oliver Dowden, the Secretary of State. These included the recommendation that a new Independent Regulator for English Football (IREF) was needed.³² Ms Crouch said that football clubs were not "ordinary businesses", played "a critical social, civic and cultural role in their local communities" and had to be protected.³³ She claimed that "key aspects" of the game were "at genuine risk":

... the dangers facing many clubs across the country are very real with their futures precarious and dependent in most cases on the willingness and continuing ability of owners to fund significant

²⁸ [HC Deb 21 April 2021 cc677-8](#)

²⁹ Quoted in "[Panel members announced for fan-led review of English football](#)", BBC Sport, 21 May 2021

³⁰ "[Panel announced for fan-led review of football](#)", FSA News, 22 May 2021

³¹ "[PL Chief Executive comments on fan-led review of football panel](#)", PL News, 22 May 2021

³² [Letter from Tracey Crouch MP to Oliver Dowden, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport](#), 22 July 2021, p1

³³ Ibid, p1

losses. When this is multiplied by poor financial controls, reckless behaviour by owners and an unwillingness of the authorities to intervene the results are clear - as can be seen from the recent fates of Bury and Macclesfield. Historic and much-loved clubs going under. Loyal fans bereft and communities decimated.³⁴

Ms Crouch said that the current regulatory framework was not working and that the football authorities needed “external assistance” to reform:

... the football authorities have lost the trust and confidence of the fans as have, in a number of cases, clubs themselves. We have also not heard from football authorities a single, unified response to the problems of English football. It remains clear that there is currently no single body that is responsible for stewarding the game and that different organisations still have different views about what should be done. This continuing lack of coordination significantly reduces my confidence in the football authorities being able to successfully address the problems identified.

The football authorities have also had multiple opportunities to reform - the 2011 DCMS Select Committee highlighted many of the same problems that have been clear in evidence to the panel and stated that if football did not change legislation would be needed. I and my predecessors as Sports Minister often stood at the Despatch Box and claimed that it was the “last chance saloon” for football to reform itself. It is with some sadness that I note they didn’t heed those warnings and that therefore it is time now for external assistance.³⁵

Establishing an independent regulator

According to Ms Crouch, an IREF should be established through legislation to address issues such as financial regulation, corporate governance and ownership. Related requirements could include cost controls, real time financial monitoring, minimum governance requirements (including a requirement for independent non-executive directors on club boards) and revised separate tests for owners and directors of clubs on an initial and ongoing basis.

However, the IREF should not cover ‘football issues’ such as the running of league competitions, video technology, the national game, Wembley Stadium, and the delivery of a grassroots strategy.

In depth work on the role of such a regulator would be carried out through the summer. A final report would be published in the autumn.³⁶

³⁴ Ibid, p2

³⁵ Ibid, p3

³⁶ Ibid, pp3-4

2 Further reading

2.1 Parliamentary

Debates and oral questions

[Football Governance](#), HC Deb 14 June 2021, cc23-48WH

[Football \(Regulation\)](#), HC Deb 26 January 2021, cc207-8

[Football Governance: Fan-led Review](#), HC Deb 20 May 2021, cc849-52

[Football: European Super League](#), HL Deb 20 April 2021, cc1726-31

[European Football Proposal](#) HC Deb 19 April 2021, cc676-91

[Football Governance](#), HC Deb 25 November 2020, cc415-38WH

[Football: European Super League](#), HL Deb, Private Notice Question, 20 April 2021 cc 1726-31

[Football Super League](#), HC Deb oral question, 20 May 2021

[English Football: Project Big Picture](#), HL Deb 14 October 2020, cc1090-3

[Football Governance](#), HC Deb 3 October 2019, c1346

[Football Regulation](#), HC Deb 26 June 2019, cc669-72

[English Football](#), HL Deb 8 May 2019, cc1274-92

Written Parliamentary Questions

[Football Governance Fan-led Review](#)

Asked by: Elliott, Julie | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what deadline he has placed for the report on the fan-led review of football governance commissioned by his Department.

Answering member: Nigel Huddleston | **Party:** Conservative Party |
Department: Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

The Government has been working at pace on the review, including appointing the Honourable Member for Chatham and Aylesford as Chair and publishing the Terms of Reference.

The first meeting of the advisory panel has been held, and we have announced that we expect an interim report from the review before the summer and a full report in the autumn.

07 Jun 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 1060

Date tabled: 13 May 2021 | **Date for answer:** 18 May 2021 | **Date answered:** 07 Jun 2021

[Football](#)

Asked by: Lord Triesman | **Party:** Labour Party

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Our Beautiful Game Saving the Beautiful Game: Manifesto for Change, published on 15 October; whether they will refer to that Manifesto in their planned fan-led review of football; and what plans they have to meet football administrators and specialist Members of both Houses to discuss the Manifesto

Answering member: Baroness Barran | **Party:** Conservative Party |
Department: Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

The Government is committed to undertaking a fan-led review of football governance and is currently considering the scope and structure of the review.

We will continue to liaise with a wide range of stakeholders and will analyse all relevant resources as work progresses.

02 Nov 2020 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL9385

Date tabled: 20 Oct 2020 | **Date for answer:** 03 Nov 2020 | **Date answered:** 02 Nov 2020

[Football](#)

Asked by: Anderson, Stuart | **Party:** Conservative Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government plans to take to (a) ensure the democratic accountability of football club owners to fans and supporters (i) at AGMs and (ii) more widely, (b) improve processes of due diligence of prospective owners of football clubs and (c) enhance the local ownership of football clubs throughout the UK.

Answering member: Nigel Huddleston | **Party:** Conservative Party
| **Department:** Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Football clubs are the heart of local communities, they have unique social value and many with a great history. It is vital they are protected.

The Government's Expert Working Group on football supporter ownership and engagement in 2016 set out a number of recommendations to encourage greater engagement between supporters and those that run their club, while also helping to remove barriers to supporter ownership. The Premier League and English Football League now require clubs to meet with supporters at least twice a year to discuss strategic issues, giving fans the opportunity to shape the direction of the club.

The Government has also committed to undertaking a fan led review of football governance, which will include consideration of the Owners' and Directors' test. We are currently deciding the scope and structure of the review.

21 Sep 2020 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 88930

Date tabled: 11 Sep 2020 | **Date for answer:** 15 Sep 2020 | **Date answered:** 21 Sep 2020

[Football](#)

Asked by: Benton, Scott | **Party:** Conservative Party

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he is taking to work with the (a) English Football League, (b) Premier League and (c) Football Association to promote sustainable (i) financial planning and (ii) good governance in football league clubs.

Answering member: Nigel Huddleston | **Party:** Conservative Party
| **Department:** Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Football clubs are the heart of local communities, they have unique social value and many with a great history. It is vital they are protected.

This government is committed to undertaking a fan led review of football governance, which will include consideration of the Owners' and Directors' test, and will work closely with the football authorities as we decide the scope and structure of the review.

My predecessor also recently met with the EFL to discuss the progress of their own review into club governance.

12 Mar 2020 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 25201

Date tabled: 04 Mar 2020 | **Date for answer:** 09 Mar 2020 | **Date answered:** 12 Mar 2020

Statements

[Fan-led Review of Football Governance](#)

24 May 2021 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS51

[Fan-led Review of Football Governance](#)

26 Apr 2021 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS939

Early Day Motions

[Securing the future of football in England](#)

EDM (Early Day Motion)35: tabled on 12 May 2021

[Fan-led review of football in England](#)

EDM 1765: tabled on 21 April 2021

[Proposed European Super League](#)

EDM 1750: tabled on 19 April 2021

e-petitions

[Enforce the “50+1” Rule for professional football club ownership in the UK](#)

e-petitions | 23 Apr 2021 | 583310

[Introduce an Independent Regulator for Football in England by December 2021](#)

13 May 2021 | e-petitions | 584632

Committees

Digital, Culture, Media and Sports Committee, [Impact of COVID-19 on DCMS sectors: First Report](#), 23 July 2020, HC 291 2019-21

Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [Football Governance Follow-Up: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2012-13](#), HC 156 2013-14, May 2013

Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [Football Governance Follow-Up](#), HC 509 2012-13, January 2013

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, [Football Governance: Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee Inquiry \(HC792-1\), Cm 8207](#), October 2011

Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [Football governance](#), HC 792-I 2010-12, July 2011

2.2 Press releases

[#ReclaimTheGame](#), Football Supporters Europe, 25 May 2021

[PL Chief Executive comments on fan-led review of football panel](#), Premier League, 22 May 2021

[Premier League statement on plans for a European Super League](#), Premier League, 20 April 2021

[Super League Crisis Proves European Football Needs Reform & Regulation](#), Football Supporters Europe, 7 May 2021

[FSA statement: Government fan-led review](#), Football Supporters Association, 19 April 2021

[Statement by UEFA, the English Football Association, the Premier League, the Royal Spanish Football Federation \(RFEF\), LaLiga, the Italian Football Federation \(FIGC\) and Lega Serie A](#), UEFA.com, 18 April 2021

[FSA Statement: European Super League](#), Football Supporters Association, 18 April 2021

[PFA Statement: Proposed European Super League](#), Professional Footballers' Association, 18 April 2021

[Premier League condemns European Super League proposal](#), Premier League, 18 April 2021

[EFL and Premier League statement: Rescue package agreed](#), EFL, 3 December 2020

[EFL statement: Financial support and Project Big Picture](#), English Football League, 14 October 2020

2.3 Media and organisations

[Review of Football Governance issue interim findings and recommendations](#), CMC Law-Now, 29 July 2021

[Give fans 'golden share' to veto key decisions, review says](#), Times, 23 July 2021

[Fan-led Review recommends radical reform to game's regulation](#), Football Supporters Association, 22 July 2021

[English football needs independent regulator, says chair of fan-led review](#), Guardian, 22 July 2021

[Government's fan-led football review recommends independent regulator to police club owners](#), Telegraph, 22 July 2021

J. Collinson, '[Redesigning English Football: Lessons from Constitutional Law Scholarship](#)', UK Constitutional Law Association Blog, 30 April 2021

[Could a fan-friendly ownership model like Germany's work in English football?](#), Guardian, 22 April 2021

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[Fan ownership of England's top football clubs investigated as European Super League crumbles](#), Times, 21 April 2021

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