

Governance of English Football QSD on 8 May 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Baroness Taylor of Bolton to ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the governance of English football.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- Football Association, '[A Significant Moment for the FA, As Governance Reforms Confirmed by Shareholders](#)', 18 May 2017; BBC Sport, '[FA Reform: Proposals Announced Following Criticism of its Governance](#)', 6 March 2017; and BBC Sport, '[FA Reform: Timeline on Football Association Governance](#)', 9 February 2017

Announcement that the Football Association (FA) agreed a new set of corporate governance reforms in 2017, "which will meet and comply with Sport England's Code for Sports Governance". In addition, articles reporting on the announcement in the context of the House of Commons no confidence motion (see below) and setting out a timeline of developments in FA governance from 2010 to 2017.

- House of Commons Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, '[Oral Evidence: The Governance of Football, HC 731](#)', 17 October 2016; and '[FA Governance to be Debated in Parliament](#)', 3 February 2017

Oral evidence session on the issue of FA governance, with a further article stating that, following the session, the committee had secured a debate on a motion which would ask the House of Commons if it had no confidence in the FA.

- House of Commons Library, '[Governance of the Football Association](#)', 8 February 2017, pp 1–5; and '[Debate on 'Football Association Governance'](#)', HC Hansard, 9 February 2017, cols 724–48

Briefing produced for a debate that focused on the ability of the FA to comply with its duties as a governing body. In addition, Hansard transcript of the debate in which the House of Commons agreed to a motion that the House had no confidence in the FA and called on the Government to bring forward legislative proposals to reform it.

- Sport England and UK Sport, '[A Code for Sports Governance](#)', accessed 2 May 2019; [A Code for Sports Governance](#), October 2016, pp 4–7; and BBC Sport, '[FA Must Reform or Face Losing Funding, Says Sports Minister Tracey Crouch](#)', 24 July 2016

Press release announcing the publication of a new code for sports governance, as well as excerpts from the new code. In addition, an article quoting the then Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Tracey Crouch, in 2016, saying that the FA would lose public funding without reform.

- Football Association, '[The FA Strategic Plan 2016–2020](#)', August 2016; and '[A Record £128m Has Been Invested Back Into Every Level of Football](#)', 12 April 2019

Seven-point strategy set out by the FA aimed at growing the grassroots game whilst striving for success at the elite level. Also, overview of the FA's financial results for the 2017–18 season, which reported that £128 million had “been invested back into every level of football”.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- A selection of written questions from both Houses: [179098](#) (18 October 2018); [109832](#) (3 November 2017); and [HL2245](#) (2 November 2017).

Press Articles and Comment

- Paul Hayward, '[It Will Take More Than Chairman Greg Clarke's Letter to Reform an Unrepresentative FA Board](#)', *Telegraph* (£), 26 October 2017
- David Conn, '[The FA Ratifies Required Reform, But Don't Mistake It For Revolution](#)', *Guardian*, 18 May 2017
- Ben Rumsby, '[FA Council Backs Greg Clarke's Reform Proposals](#)', *Telegraph* (£), 4 April 2017
- Jack Pitt-Brooke, '[Greg Clarke Challenges Government to Accept 'Once in a Generation' FA Reforms](#)', *Independent*, 6 March 2017

Further Information

- House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [Football Governance](#), 29 July 2011, HC 792-1 of session 2010–12; and Department for Culture, Media and Sport, [Football Governance: Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee Inquiry \(HC792-1\)](#), October 2011, CM8207
- House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [Football Governance Follow-Up](#), 29 January 2013, HC 509 of session 2012–13; and House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee, [Football Governance Follow-Up: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2012–13](#), 23 May 2013, HC 156 of session 2013–14

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