

5 – Additional Evidence

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Joshua Parry

-----Original Message-----

From: Joshua Parry [<mailto:Joshua.Parry@plasmawr.cardiff.sch.uk>]

Sent: 01 October 2006 22:11

To: rosemary.butler@wales.gov.uk

Subject: wales

dear reader

aren't you going to fight for top welsh clubs swansea,cardiff and wrexham to play european football or are you going to let minnow clubs tns and llanelli get beat by terrible sides 6-0 like llanelli did this season to some side from sweden who cardiff city would easily beat they could easily get into the group stages of the european champions league. why don't you fight for the right that wales are represented by the best not by the worst shouldn't wales offer the best they can not the worst in europe sepp blatter can't change the rules it's up to us me and you faw and uefa should change their minds why are derry city a club from northern ireland who play in the republics league get into europe why should they get a chance why not a decent welsh side. will you fight for it please please fight for welsh clubs the big three to go into europe?
one question why did wales get banned from the european cup in the 90s?
fight for the best the welsh can offer please? your country calls

joshua parry
11 preswylfa street
canton
Cardiff

This is what we do

David Collins, FAW Secretary-General



The work of the FA of Wales has attracted a great deal of comment in recent months, much of it rather wide of the mark. We are one of the smaller national associations, but our commitment to Welsh football should not be doubted, and our dedicated staff work hard to implement the five-point strategic policies which have been identified by the FAW Council. These priorities form the foundation for the development of the game for some time to come and we can be proud of our provision for the future.

PRIORITY 1 MINI-PITCHES

During the past year we have entered into partnership with Uefa and the FSA to install two mini-pitches in 21 of our 22 local authorities. These playing areas enable young people and the disabled to play football in a safe environment on all-weather pitches every day of the year, and we have endeavoured to place them in socially deprived areas or where no football facilities previously existed. The shared cost is £700,000 but its true value cannot be over-estimated.

PRIORITY 2 GROUND IMPROVEMENT FUND

In the past two seasons £1.1 million has been placed in a fund to upgrade stadia and other elements of infrastructure for our member clubs. Although a larger share is allocated to those clubs who will be playing in European competition, grants are also awarded to ambitious clubs in lower divisions of the pyramid league structure. Around £2 million had been distributed for similar schemes in the previous decade, but the current figures reflect the considered use of the additional income from our successful commercial negotiations.

PRIORITY 3 NATIONAL TRAINING FACILITY

During this season we hope to complete our biggest and most important signing to date – the creation of a National Training Facility at our team base at the Vale of Glamorgan Hotel. It will see the building of a 'premier class' full-size pitch, together with a half-size pitch for specific skills practice. This will be a joint venture with Fifa and will enable our international teams to prepare properly ahead of future matches.

PRIORITY 4 CLUB LICENSING SCHEME

Clubs representing Wales in Europe are familiar with the standards required under Uefa's club licensing system. After wide-ranging consultation, the FAW Council approved a National Club Licensing Scheme which sets out a quality management system which will monitor the continuous improvement of clubs in the Welsh Premier League as well as those who aspire to join the league. The five key areas are Sporting (Youth & coaching), Infrastructure, Legal & administration, Finance and Codes of Practice.

PRIORITY 5 WELSH FOOTBALL TRUST

Ten years ago the FAW founded this charitable trust to oversee its development programmes. Four years ago, the FAW and the Trust in tandem were licensed by Uefa to operate the prestigious Pro Licence coaching course, thereby establishing Wales as a leader in the field. In addition, the grassroots has not been neglected: there is a network of coaches covering the local authorities and who develop all aspects of the game. The FAW provides administrative expertise through its nominated Trustees, and offers financial assistance, which by 2010 will have shown an investment of at least £1.5 million.

All in all, these initiatives which we have undertaken will hold Welsh football in good stead for many years to come. It is worth noting that the association receives no financial support from public bodies, but through its well-managed policies it can meet these major obligations. With the national team playing exciting and attractive football, we can continue to silence our critics.



Doc65

Wayne Edwards.

Mr. D W Edwards,
Wayman,
6, Tir Onen,
Baglan,
Port Talbot,
SA12 8UA.

David G Collins,
Secretary General,
Football Association of Wales.

Dear Sir,

May I say here! Here! On what you rightly list as important work and indeed achievements of the Football Association of Wales in helping to promote football in the principality, Yes we are a principality and not a nation of high population, less than half the size of Scotland and a twentieth in size to England, yet we still manage to compete with teams from those nations at each level of age and ability.

Mini football has helped develop young players to greater levels of technical ability than any other form of the game and long may it continue. Your commitment to provide mini pitches throughout Wales is commendable and especially in deprived areas where young children may not have the luxury of private transport to ferry them away from the district to play.

Being an ardent supporter of the Welsh Premier League, I see at first hand what ground improvement grants can achieve and it's very encouraging to see the new stand beginning to be built at Port Talbot Town F.C. This will, I'm sure, encourage all of their young players try to aspire to a level of the game where playing at such stadia will become the norm.

A national training facility is the natural progression required if Wales are to progress from a nation that takes part and become a nation that competes at the highest level of competition within U.E.F.A and F.I.F.A. To develop this at the Vale resort is sensible as most of the infrastructure is already in place. But I do hope that this will not mean that all other sides other than the senior squad will not use facilities outside the capital in future. We at Port Talbot Town F.C were delighted to play host to the U 21's last season and of course welcome Mr John Toshak and his staff to our ground.

Club licensing is another big step forward football in Wales and by now trying to incorporate it at a lower level can only improve spectator facilities throughout the leagues in Wales. It will and does encourage ambitious clubs to set realistic levels of wage structures and thus remove the days where good teams (best payers) continue to win leagues etc and maintain poor facilities for their paying customers.

Finance is an area where most clubs will fall down on licensing criteria standards. The cost of providing acceptable audited financial reports is for most clubs crippling. But as from this year I understand that there are grants available to those clubs that achieve the standard of auditing required for licensing. This should now mean that many more and hopefully all of the clubs in the W.P.L are able to reach and maintain licensing standards.

The F.A.W Trust is an organization that is flourishing and you are right to point this out. If we as a nation are to succeed at international football then we have to be realistic and realise that those who sit in ivory towers across the river are never going to have our interests at heart. We must strive to improve ourselves and this means we must create a learning environment for our young players to improve their football skills in. I feel the F.A.W Trust does this to great effect. All over Wales during winter months you will see sports & leisure centre floodlights shining down on Astro turf and other artificial surfaced playing areas. You can be sure that in most of these instances it will be the training / coaching session of the F.A.W Trusts academies or centers of excellences.

I'm sorry for being so long winded in my response, but I want you to be sure that many, many people that are involved in the grass roots of football in Wales, do really appreciate what you at the F.A.W are doing and the improvements you are striving to achieve.

Long may you succeed,

Wayne Edwards.

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Enterprise and Culture Committee: 13th Report 2005: Report on the Reform of Scottish Football

Memorandum by the Scottish Executive

Introduction

1. The Scottish Executive welcomes the report of the Enterprise and Culture Committee on the reform of Scottish Football. The Committee has gathered and assessed a lot of valuable factual and other evidence from organisations and individuals within the game and others involved with it. The Executive considers that the Committee has produced a balanced, wide-ranging and thought-provoking report. Its conclusions and recommendations merit careful consideration by all the stakeholders in the game who wish to see Scottish football at all levels thrive; enjoy success at club and representative levels on the international stage; have long-term financial and organisational stability; and play its full part in the life of communities throughout Scotland.
2. The main part of this Memorandum contains the Executive's response to the Committee's main conclusions and recommendations as set out in the Executive Summary of the report. The Annex contains supplementary information and comments which we hope the Committee will regard as helpful and an appropriate acknowledgement of the thoroughness of the Committee's investigations and findings.
3. We fully recognise the place, status and potential for football in its own right as a sport, and also its currency and massive potential in contributing to the broader social agenda.
4. We are pleased that we have already been able to respond positively to the Committee's recommendation about further funding for the work of Supporters' Direct in Scotland (see also paragraph 10 below). The Executive's support will help to ensure that Supporters Trusts become further established as an important contributor to the financial health and well-being of clubs and their local communities.

Governance – vision and principles

5. The Scottish Executive generally endorses the Committee's conclusions and recommendations and joins the Committee in calling for the SFA and its affiliated organisations and partners to consider the Committee's recommendations carefully. In particular, we agree that the regional structure currently being developed for the administration of youth football should provide a useful model for changes to the

structures in place for adult football. We also agree that further consideration should be given to putting in place structures and procedures which more readily enable clubs to progress within football according to ability and ambition.

Finances

6. The Scottish Executive agrees with the Committee that the football authorities and professional football clubs in Scotland and at a European level need to work together to secure financial stability and viability for the game. We welcome the recent initiative of the UK Government, during its Presidency of the EU, to enter a dialogue with UEFA, FIFA and other bodies about reviewing corporate and social governance in football. We welcome the decision of UEFA to conduct a review which will involve consultation with its members (including the SFA) and others. We will keep in touch with the SFA and the UK Government on the progress and outcome of this review.

Football's future (youth/women's football and the role for supporters)

7. The Scottish Executive welcomes the Committee's support for the Action Plan for Youth Football. We and **sportscotland** are closely involved in its implementation and have arranged for substantial sums of lottery and Exchequer funds to be invested in it and associated developments such as the National and Regional Sports Facilities Strategy and consider how best to contribute to it.
8. The Implementation Steering Group and the Implementation Manager are responsible for monitoring and evaluating achievement of the outcomes of the Action Plan and progress with implementation against agreed timelines and targets. The Implementation Steering Group regularly considers detailed progress reports prepared by the Implementation Manager. Progress with implementation will continue to be communicated to stakeholders through newsletters and other means. The level of funds identified by the SFA and its partners is sufficient at present to take forward all elements of the Action Plan but this will be kept under review.
9. The Scottish Executive agrees that further investment in facilities for football (and other sports) in Scotland is required for all levels of the game. We have no plans to reintroduce a specific football academy programme. The football academy programme was superseded by the National and Regional Sports Facilities Strategy which recognises the need for a regional network of high-quality indoor and outdoor facilities which our most talented young players can access. A strategy of setting aside funds for football academy developments by only the top clubs is not desirable when the majority are not, or may not be, in a financial position to implement such projects. The regional development model should provide a more sustainable and inclusive approach to how youth football can be developed in the future. It is however open to any club (whether or not working with a local

authority or other partner) to apply for funding for a football academy proposal under **sportscotland's** Building for Sport programme. The Executive and **sportscotland** also remain committed to working with partners to fill remaining gaps in the geographic coverage of regional sports facilities, including indoor facilities for football training. We consider that this may be the most productive route for some top clubs to follow to access the facilities they require.

10. The Scottish Executive values the work of Supporters Direct in Scotland and we were pleased to announce on 6 February that we have agreed to provide funding of £190,000 over the next two years to enable it to continue and develop its role in Scottish football. We agree that most professional and semi-professional clubs play an important role in their local communities but we also agree that there is scope to do more. In developing its work in Scotland, Supporters Direct will aim to assist the football industry to reinvigorate itself by embracing the assistance of supporters and bringing clubs closer to their local communities.

Infrastructure and facilities

11. As noted above, the Scottish Executive agrees that further investment in facilities for football in Scotland (and other sports) is required, for all levels of the game. Local authorities have a statutory responsibility for ensuring adequate provision of facilities for sport and recreation in their area. In relation to youth football, local authorities will benefit from the structural and strategic developments taking place as part of the Action Plan for Youth Football (see also comments in the Annex).
12. The audits of the condition of local sports facilities will inform the development of local and national strategies for improving facilities for football and a range of other sports. **sportscotland** is committed to publishing the results of the audits as soon as possible. Some important detailed work is still being finalised but **sportscotland** has agreed that detailed summaries of the audits will be published by mid-May at the latest.

Other Areas of Public Policy

13. The Scottish Executive is pleased to continue its support for the Show Racism the Red Card campaign in Scotland and welcomes the support which the campaign receives in Scotland from the football authorities, the Scottish Professional Footballers' Association and individual clubs.
14. The First Minister launched on 30 January an Action Plan on Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland. One element of that plan is that the Executive will work in partnership with the SFA and **sportscotland** to develop a strategy for tackling sectarianism in football. The strategy will build on the work already being done by the football authorities, individual clubs and others and will be launched by the end of 2006.

Wider sports policy

15. The Scottish Executive notes that, in addition to welcoming our commitment to increased provision for PE in the curriculum and to Active Schools, the Committee recommends that we look at ways of promoting more inter-school competition. There are no plans to change legislation affecting the curriculum to facilitate this. We will ask **sportscotland** to pull together information on current activity in this area with the help of the Active Schools network, the Scottish Schoolsport Federation and others. We understand however that a lot of competitive school sport already takes place. Indeed one of the main findings of the independent review of youth football in Scotland was that many of the more talented players of school age are overplayed when they ought to be spending more time developing their fitness and skills on the training ground. There are similar issues in other sports.
16. The Scottish Executive also notes the Committee's recommendation that the Sports Minister should provide more detail on how pathways can be better developed and promulgated.
17. In relation to football, the rationalisation of the player pathway (to use the jargonistic expression) is at the heart of the Action Plan for Youth Football. There are other strategic issues relating to governance, support services and funding which are also crucial. However the central aim of the Plan is to provide a clear pathway for player development. For sports in general, we have been working with and through **sportscotland** for several years on measures to strengthen the infrastructure of Scottish sport with the twin aims of: -
 - (1) increasing participation; and
 - (2) identifying and developing the most talented players and athletes through structures that allow them to progress at their individual levels and be supported in that process.
18. Active Schools and the Institute of Sport network are now integral parts of the framework for Long Term Player Development (LTPD) and **sportscotland** is currently piloting work on Sports Partnerships which will address another necessary part of the development pathway.
19. The Executive has asked **sportscotland** to provide the Committee with a paper describing the work currently being developed in this area. **sportscotland**'s series of "Player Improvement" consultation documents are at the heart of these developments, covering in particular, LTPD, Sports Partnerships and Regional Academy of Sport Programmes.

20. The Scottish Executive notes the Committee's view that there is scope for more joined-up thinking across Executive departments in relation to sports policy; and its recommendation that the Executive should make further strides in this respect. We entirely agree that the Executive's aims and objectives for sport can only be achieved with appropriate input from a range of policies and programmes across the Executive, in addition to the support of partner organisations at national and local level. The Executive continues to review how well other Ministerial portfolio areas and Executive departments are supporting and assisting delivery of Ministers' objectives and policies on sport.
21. The Scottish Executive understands the importance of giving young people interesting and innovative activities in their area and the positive impact this has for them and their communities in keeping them off the streets and in some cases diverting them from antisocial behaviour or even crime.
22. The New Opportunities in PE and Sport programme in Scotland includes substantial provision for the support of out of school sporting and cultural activities including activities aimed at attracting young people at risk of offending.
23. The Scottish Executive has made £5 million available to local authorities in 2004-05 until 2007-08 to support voluntary sector organisations and sporting and cultural organisations who work with young people to provide or increase good facilities and services in their area.
24. The criteria for the fund have been drawn up so that local authorities can decide who to allocate funds to according to local need and demand. Many local authorities – including Dumfries and Galloway, Falkirk, Perth & Kinross, Stirling and South Ayrshire - have supported midnight football, usually with SFA qualified coaches on a Friday evening.

A role for Ministers

25. The Scottish Executive acknowledges that it has a role to play, directly or through encouraging others, in following up some of the issues identified in the Committee's conclusions and recommendations. We do not consider however that it would be appropriate for the Executive to report annually to the Committee on all these issues. The Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport would be happy to consider with the Committee other options which would enable the Committee to monitor and assess progress on issues to which it attaches particular importance.

Scottish Executive Education Department
21 February 2006

Enterprise and Culture Committee: 13th Report 2005: Report on the Reform of Scottish Football

Memorandum by the Scottish Executive: Supplementary Information and Comments

Governance of Football – vision and principles (paras 28-57)

The Scottish Executive considers that there should be one national governing body for each recognised sport in Scotland. That is the best way to ensure that there is satisfactory governance and one coherent and co-ordinated plan for the development of each sport – ie one vision, one policy and one strategy and the organisational structure to deliver at national and local level.

The PMP review of youth football identified the need for the SFA to be restructured to promote, foster, develop, govern and represent the whole game. The key question (as stated by Mr Campbell Ogilvie in his evidence to the Committee) is what structures and organisations exist below the national governing body and how are they and their interests represented within it in ways which are fair and just and generally seen to be so. Significant changes in governance within the SFA have taken place in recent years, following the report of the Independent Review Commission in the mid-1990's.

The Scottish Executive respects the wish of the SFA to make further changes in the governance of Scottish football in an evolutionary rather than a revolutionary way. Following the most thorough and inclusive review of youth football in Scotland ever undertaken, further major changes in structures and governance are in train. Implementation of the Action Plan for Youth Football will go a long way in streamlining structures and governance; forming a more integrated national governing body; providing a stronger voice for the recreational game; ensuring a single national strategy for developing youth football; and putting in place a regional structure where all parties can work together, thus making it easier for the national strategy to be delivered at local and regional levels.

The conditions attaching to investment of public funds in the Action Plan for Youth Football will stipulate that the SFA will be required to maintain Fit for Purpose status as defined by the requirements of the **sportscotland** Modern Sports Programme and to respond to related recommendations.

The Scottish Executive considers that the SFA should give further consideration to reducing the potential for conflicts of interest which arise from the present constitutional and governance arrangements. In particular, in addition to ensuring that the Executive

Board contains members drawn from all levels of the game with an appropriate balance and range of skills, we would encourage the SFA to introduce independent members. This would increase objectivity and assist the Board to focus on the strategic direction of the SFA.

The Youth Action Plan is governed by a Heads of Agreement document between the SFA, the Scottish Executive and **sportscotland**. The agreement identifies a set of principles, actions and conditions required to be put in place over the life of the Plan's ten years. The Implementation Steering Group will require to ensure adherence and direction where governance matters (amongst others) are to the fore.

The move to a pyramid structure for professional and semi-professional football requires careful consideration and the Executive and **sportscotland** would be willing to consider how we might appropriately contribute to a review by the SFA. As the SFL noted, any new arrangements need to allow clubs to move down as well as up a ladder of progression without their existence being threatened. As the SFA noted, any system based on sporting merit will need to take into account also issues relating to ground capacity and safety.

Finances (paras 58-94)

The Scottish Executive agrees that much remains to be done to ensure the financial well-being of many clubs and provide some long-term financial stability for the professional football industry in Scotland. We are also concerned that SPL and more particularly SFL clubs are experiencing further financial problems through the loss of income from the football pools companies and related sources.

While welcoming UEFA's decision to undertake a review of corporate and social governance in football, we consider that meanwhile the SFA should continue to develop the Club Licensing Scheme as a robust mechanism for improving financial management and discipline. We also consider that sanctions need to be available to deter clubs from seeking an unfair advantage through financial mismanagement. Best practice would however involve an early warning system that would alert the football authorities to an emerging problem.

We consider that in the current financial climate it will be difficult for the top clubs in Scotland to be more redistributive. Redistribution is a key element of solidarity (as referred to in the Declaration of Nice* and elsewhere) and needs to be kept under review by the SFA and others. The top end of football depends on the health of the game at grassroots and youth levels and cannot expect the public sector to take sole responsibility for supporting the development of the game at these levels.

Investment in youth football through the Youth Action Plan will be monitored and evaluated closely by **sportscotland** with the SFA and reported to the Implementation Steering Group. The seven Youth Action Plan areas together with the SFA National Plan

present real opportunities to build a solid foundation and fund grassroots and youth level football to good long term effect.

Infrastructure and Facilities (paras 95-117)

The implementation of the Action Plan for Youth Football includes the development of a facilities strategy but the budget does not include provision for the development or upgrading of facilities. A facilities strategy developed by football's governing body, combined with the National Plan for Youth Football Development currently in preparation, will provide a sound foundation for a more strategic partnership between the Regional Committees for Youth Football and local authorities on facilities provision and management. For many years, **sportscotland** has encouraged local authorities to produce sports and recreation strategies incorporating playing fields and sports pitch strategies and we would expect them to do so making use of the support available from **sportscotland**.

* Declaration by the European Council on the specific characteristics of sport and its social function in Europe, Nice, December 2000
The audits of the condition of playing fields and sports pitches will show very clearly that the problems to be addressed are not so much about the loss of pitches but primarily about the need to improve the standard and management of the existing stock. Allied to this is the issue of affordable access because in some areas a major barrier to development is pricing policies that inhibit access to pitches, particularly for youth and volunteer groups.

There has been a very substantial investment in football-specific and multi-sports facilities such as Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) in the last decade and this is continuing through implementation of NOPES and other programmes. Just before Christmas last year **sportscotland** announced a £2m package of investment in local facilities with 4 awards worth £1.2m in total being football related.

The Scottish Executive's policy position on PPP school facilities is set out in the Committee report. The very significant investment in the school estate, through PPP and other forms of procurement, is leading to improved schools and school sports facilities. The use of these facilities, matters relating to the cost of hiring them, and questions of reviewing existing contracts are issues for local decision. Local authorities are the procuring body for all forms of school building works and PPP contracts are between them and their partners. The Scottish Standard Schools Contract (SSSC) contains appropriate provision for authorities and PPP operators to change service requirements at any point during the operation of contracts, taking account of the circumstances locally.

Football's Future (paras 118-162)

In relation to sport in schools, we consider that the top priorities for education authorities and individual schools are:-

- to provide a minimum of 2 hours of quality physical education in the core curriculum for every child every week, so that schoolchildren develop the

physical literacy which helps them to participate effectively and enjoyably in sport (and physical activity more generally);

- to provide or facilitate the provision of opportunities for all schoolchildren to engage in physical activity, including sport, in and around the school day;
- to develop appropriate links with local sports clubs to increase opportunities for schoolchildren to participate in sport, receive appropriate coaching and other support and provide a pathway for continued involvement in sport after leaving school.
- to use the potential of sport to contribute to individual achievement and the ethos of the school including raising standards and reducing truancy and indiscipline.

Inter-school competition has a role to play but it is essential that children, especially of primary school age, see sports participation as fun and that an appropriate balance is struck between competition and fitness training and skills development. The priority at primary school level should be that **everyone** gets the opportunity to play.

The implementation of the Action Plan for Youth Football and the SFA's National Plan will integrate and accelerate the development of the women's and girls' game. We agree that clubs regarded as being in the forefront of youth development should be required to demonstrate some commitment to the development of the women's and girls' game.

On player pathway, the Action Plan for Youth Football and other initiatives aim to avoid the disillusionment and drop-out rate we currently experience. We want to retain players in the game, whether as players, coaches, referees or officials and fully integrate football developments within regional initiatives, such as **sportscotland's** pilot Sports Partnerships, to ensure life-long participation and longer term athlete development.

The SFA's Club Licensing Scheme should ensure that the top clubs pay appropriate attention to education and welfare issues in their youth development programmes.

Scottish Executive Education Department
21 February 2006