



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

12 November 2025

Dear Sir Laurie,

Following the appointment of David Kogan as Chair of the Independent Football Regulator and the Commissioner for Public Appointment's recent decision notice in which he makes reference to No10 having been engaged in the appointment process, I wanted to write to you formally to set out the position I shared with you when we met yesterday.

As set out in the Football Regulation Act, the appointment of the Independent Football Regulator's Chair is a statutory decision for the Secretary of State. It is the case, however, that where an appointment is inextricably linked to the Government's priorities, No10 is engaged and updated throughout the appointment process. In this case the process was no different and follows a precedent set by successive administrations.

You and I have met regularly to discuss my ministerial declaration of interests and ongoing updates thereto and, on three occasions, I have raised with you my interest in football. As I have previously declared to you, whilst in office I have received hospitality from football clubs and the Football Association on a number of occasions. In light of this, I agreed with you in Autumn 2024 that I would recuse myself from decisions relating to the Football Governance Bill. I have not participated in any decisions relating to this Bill in accordance with that agreement.

In April 2025 a note was submitted to me informing me that, after running the appointment process, the Culture Secretary wanted to appoint David Kogan as the inaugural Chair of the Independent Football Regulator, subject to pre-appointment scrutiny by the Select Committee. The note asked me whether I was content. I confirmed that I was supportive. I knew that the decision was for the Secretary of State to take and I replied on the basis that the decision had been taken. In retrospect, it would have been better if I had not been given the note or confirmed that I was content with the appointment. This was an unfortunate error for which I express my sincere regret.

In June 2025, you and I discussed this issue and the fact that I had received two donations from Mr Kogan which dated back to my campaign to run for the Labour Party Leadership in 2020. My Constituency Labour Party also received a donation around the time of the last General Election. We agreed that the recusal I agreed in Autumn 2024 should include measures to guard against any perception of conflict. On that basis, we agreed that I should stay out of the appointment process and I have not taken or approved any decisions in relation to the appointment of Mr Kogan since then.

I have asked my officials to carry out an internal review of the processes by which recusals are managed in No10.

Thank you, once again, for your time and advice in relation to this matter.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mr Simon', followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Sir Laurie Magnus CBE