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Stoke Lodge Playing Fields, West Dene, Bristol, BS9 2BH

Reference number: S62A/2025/0133

I support Cotham School's application for CCTV at its playing field at Stoke lodge for the following reasons:

Safeguarding duties:

- The school has a legal duty of care to protect students and staff
- CCTV provides accountability when staff supervise students off-site
- Helps prevent bullying, fights, or inappropriate behavior during school use
- Protects against allegations involving students or staff

Out-of-hours security:

- School facilities are frequent targets for vandalism, graffiti, and break-ins
- Equipment (goalposts, storage sheds) can be stolen or damaged
- Prevents unauthorized access by young people after hours (drinking, drug use, etc.)
- Reduces repair costs and disruption to PE lessons

Public use conflicts:

- If the field is used outside school hours, CCTV helps manage disputes
- Documents damage so the school can identify who's responsible
- Deters anti-social behaviour that could make the site unsafe for students or staff

Risk management:

- If the field is remote from the main school site, staff can't provide direct oversight
- Allows checking conditions before transporting students there
- Evidence for injury claims or accidents during school activities
- Retention and access policies

Schools must risk-assess all sites students use. For a school specifically, CCTV at an off-site field is often considered best practice rather than just optional, given the heightened safeguarding responsibilities.

On top of all of this, as the Head of a large school in Bristol, I have been following developments over nearly the past decade on the disputes over Stoke Lodge playing fields. The council have clearly stated on numerous occasions that these should be used to provide exercise facilities for the students of Cotham School – which is an essential part of the schooling every child should have, and which the government has recently made further commitment to. The fact that this

site cannot be used for this purpose, thanks to the vandalism and lawlessness of certain agents, is abominable, and I suggest that the installation of CCTV cameras on the site will deter such vandals.

I would prefer that neither my name nor my email address is associated with this submission for various reasons I am happy to discuss with the recipient. If this is not possible, please let me know so I can consider whether to amend or withdraw my submission.