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To: [Section 62A Applications Non Major](#)
Subject: Application reference number S62A/2025/0133
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Reference number: S62A/2025/0133

Re: CCTV for Stoke Lodge Playing Fields, West Dene, Bristol, BS9 2BH

I am a Governor at Cotham School, and two of my sons were previously students. The provision of safe and secure outdoor sports facilities for our young people is vital and the school works hard to ensure it can provide those facilities. A High Court judgment in June 2025 definitively established that Stoke Lodge constitutes private educational land held for the education of Cotham School's 1,650+ students. Schools have heightened safeguarding and child protection responsibilities and a legal duty of care to protect students and staff. The school must risk assess the site and ensure it can meet its duties which is challenging particularly on an off-site field. CCTV is the best practice way to help meet the school's obligations and is essential for safeguarding duties, not optional.

Key reasons:

Safeguarding duties:

The safety and protection of children in the school's care is paramount and non-negotiable. Provision for CCTV at the playing field is a fundamental safeguarding requirement that will enable the school to use the land safely and responsibly.

Out-of-hours security:

School facilities are frequent targets for vandalism, graffiti, and break-ins. For example, the original sports pavilion at the site was subjected to multiple arson attacks meaning it has had to be recently rebuilt.

The fence at the playing field has been repeatedly vandalised over several years:

- o The first perimeter fence was systematically vandalised over several months to the point where only a few panels were left remaining.
- o School metal panel signage has also been removed or vandalised.
- o The new fence installed in November has already been repeatedly vandalised.

Equipment (goalposts, storage sheds) can be stolen or damaged

Prevents unauthorized access by young people after hours (drinking, drug use, etc.)

Public use conflicts e.g. dispute management, deters antisocial behaviour

Risk management e.g. allows oversight from the main school.

For all of the above reasons, but particularly for ensuring safeguarding duties are met, planning permission for the CCTV cameras should be granted.

Thank you

Paula Bradshaw