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Matthew Pennycook MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

23rd March 2018

Dear Matthew,

OWNERS CONDUCT REVIEW

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the EFL's Owners' Conduct Review as well as your comments welcoming the EFL's decision to take the initiative in this area.

The purpose of the review is to establish what standards of conduct should be expected of clubs, their owners, directors and other relevant employees, as well as what actions would be viewed as falling short of those requirements. This will give the EFL the opportunity to define in what areas it may be able to take further measures beyond those currently defined in our regulations.

As you will probably be aware, the EFL is a member's organisation that operates its competitions on behalf of its 72 clubs, with any new regulations needing to be formally supported by a majority of clubs (and a majority of Championship clubs). It therefore follows that a review of our regulations with regard to the ownership and management of clubs should begin with those clubs in order to determine the scope of what might ultimately be achievable.

This process is currently ongoing and it is fair to say there is already a significant breadth of opinion being expressed by clubs, which is not unsurprising given they are a broad church ranging from those that are financed by wealthy benefactors to those that are owned and run by supporters trusts.

At its conclusion, I will submit a series of recommendations to the EFL Board based on the 'art of the possible' and will seek guidance from it on the approach it wishes to take to the matter. This could, of course, include wider consultation. Clubs will learn of these proposals at our summer conference in June.

Finally, given the specific comments made about Charlton Athletic in your letter, I believe it's important that I make clear that the club is currently being run in accordance with our regulations, which includes the owners and senior executives being certified annually under the Owners' and Directors' Test. As ever, should we become aware of any breaches of regulations by the club (or any other club) we will take the appropriate action.

Thank you for your interest in this matter and your local club.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Harvey', written over a horizontal line.

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