



20 August 2021

Chi Onwurah MP
24, 7-15 Pink Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 5DW

Dear Ms Onwurah,

I am writing in reply to your letter of 5 July.

You will now be aware that on Monday 19 July Newcastle United FC and the Premier League attended a hearing on its ongoing arbitration. The main hearing has now been adjourned until early 2022 due to issues with the disclosure of evidence. Both parties have agreed that we would not be making any further comment at this time.

As background, arbitration proceedings are always confidential. That is as set out in the Premier League's rules. Many arbitration proceedings in commercial, political, civic and other areas of life are conducted in confidence, where that enables those proceedings to be more effective in reaching a conclusion, not least in giving participants greater freedom to provide information and express views. Newcastle United FC, along with all other member Clubs, agreed to these procedural rules for arbitration.

I would like to make it clear, in response to your suggestion of rumoured Club involvement in this process, that this is absolutely not the case. The Owners' and Directors' Test (OADT) is delegated to and carried out entirely by the Premier League Board. Other member Clubs have no role whatsoever in the OADT or arbitration processes.

The Premier League has met, and will continue to meet, with supporter representatives as part of our structured dialogue process where we have the opportunity to discuss concerns supporters have directly. I met with Newcastle United Supporters Trust representatives on 19 August 2020. Minutes of that meeting are available on the Football Supporters' Association website.

The OADT was most recently updated at the Annual General Meeting of all Member Clubs in May 2021 where additional disqualifying conditions were agreed including failure to sign the Owners' Charter and breaching the new rules on breakaway competitions. A statement was released on this matter. This can be read in full here: <https://www.premierleague.com/news/2128084>. We are continuing to look at ways in which we can enhance the OADT and its transparency.

I completely understand the frustration that this matter has caused Newcastle United FC supporters.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Masters

Chief Executive

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