



Department for  
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Media & Sport

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Shabana Mahmood MP

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Dear Shabana,

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 July, regarding Birmingham City FC.

As you may be aware, the English Football League has now confirmed that Mr Laurence Bassini's attempted takeover of Birmingham City FC is no longer proceeding.

While the government does not currently assess the ownership or governance arrangements of individual football clubs, we recognise that they have unique social value and it is vital that they are protected. Therefore, improving the governance, ownership and financial sustainability of clubs in English football was the explicit aim of the independent Fan Led Review of Football Governance. The review panel took evidence from a wide range of football stakeholders, including the Birmingham City FC Supporters Trust, The Blues Trust.

The government published its [response](#) to the recommendations made by the Fan Led Review of Football Governance. One of the ten recommendations was that a new owners' and directors' tests for clubs should be established by an Independent Regulator for English Football. The government agrees that this will help to ensure the future sustainability of our football clubs and the stability of the game.

The government's response to the fan-led review's report sets out that the tests should be strengthened by enhancing due diligence to check source of funds and the strength of business and financial plans, and that an integrity style test will be introduced. The forthcoming White Paper will provide further details on how the enhanced tests will work, and what will be in scope of the integrity test.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to the department.

Nigel Huddleston MP  
**Minister for Sport, Tourism, Heritage and Civil Society**

