

26th November 2025

Dear Chief Constable,

Thank you for sharing with me the letter from Sarah Jones MP, the Minister of State for Policing and Crime, dated 24 November. I note her request for "an urgent update from your force to clarify the provenance of the intelligence gathered and your confidence in this".

In Parliament on Monday 24 November 2025, Nick Timothy MP (West Suffolk, Conservative), asked for a statement from the Home Secretary on the intelligence used by West Midlands police, that led to the ban on Maccabi Tel Aviv fans, from attending Villa Park on 6 November 2025.

Mr Timothy asserted that WMP's recommendation, that Maccabi Tel Aviv ("MTA") fans should be prevented from attending the fixture, was "based on fiction". He asserted that the Dutch police had stated the WMP claims were "not true" and "obviously inaccurate". He concluded that, "Under pressure from Islamist agitators, local politicians and thugs, an English police force is accused of fabricating intelligence and misleading the public."

The Shadow Home Secretary, Chris Philp MP (Croydon South, Conservative) amplified these points, stating that statements in WMP's assessments of the risks posed by MTA fans, were "completely false" and "just made up".

Mr Timothy based his comments on an article in *The Sunday Times*, "Police 'used fake claims' to ban Maccabi fans from Aston Villa game", published online on Saturday 22 November, which again states that, a Dutch police spokesperson refuted elements of the intelligence assessment prepared by WMP.

We have separately written to the Home Affairs Committee in response to questions from them, and we have now been invited to appear before the committee regarding this matter.

In view of the letter from the Minister of State for Policing and Crime, the statements made in Parliament, *The Times* article and the interest from the Home Affairs Committee, I request the following:

Firstly, I seek assurance from you as to the accuracy, credibility, reliability and provenance of the intelligence received by WMP from the Dutch police.

Secondly, I seek assurance from you that the intelligence received from the Dutch police was interpreted accurately, fairly and reasonably by WMP, when preparing its recommendations for SAG on 16 October 2025.

Thirdly, I request that you confirm this intelligence was shared with Home Office, prior to the Birmingham City Council's decision to bar the MTA fans from the fixture, and that no concerns were raised, regarding either the substance of the assertions or the interpretation of their importance.

Finally, I request that you confirm the UK Football Policing Unit rapid review, undertaken after the 16 October, considered the intelligence and again raised no concerns regarding its substance or interpretation.

I would be grateful, if you could please kindly provide me with a substantive reply to this letter, by 4.00pm on Friday 28 November.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Foster', with a stylized, cursive script.

Simon Foster
West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner