



21 February 2026

Dear Dame Bradley,

I refer to the Home Affairs Committee ('the Committee') Report: Maccabi Tel Aviv fan ban, that is not to be published before 00.01 on Sunday 22 February 2026. I first had sight of the Report on Friday 20 February. I am therefore writing this letter, at the earliest reasonable opportunity.

The Report includes the following conclusion at Chapter 4: Response of the Home Office and Government, paragraph 39:

“While the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was not involved in the Safety Advisory Group process, and it is right that the principle of operational independence is respected, the West Midlands PCC appeared to prioritise defending the Chief Constable above holding him to account, until this approach proved untenable with the release of further information.”

That conclusion is repeated at Conclusions and Recommendations: Response of the Home Office and Government, paragraph 11. The Committee's conclusion is disputed. It is submitted, this is not an accurate or fair representation. The purpose of this letter is not to set out representations in detail. However, I refer in summary to the following matters, without prejudice to any further matters that might be relied upon:

1. The Committee fails to acknowledge, I immediately called on the Birmingham City Council Safety Advisory Group ('SAG') and WMP, to convene a Special SAG, and conduct a review of the decision, to prohibit the attendance of away fans at the football match, between Aston Villa FC v Maccabi Tel Aviv FC and that I expected consideration of all and any suitable and alternative options.

2. My Declaration of Acceptance of Office expressly provides that: ‘I will not interfere with the operational independence of police officers’ and the Committee’s disparate framing of the threshold, for the importance of operational independence, as between my role as PCC – it is to be ‘respected’ and when applied to Government Ministers – it is ‘extremely important.’
3. The Committee includes the following phrase: the decision to ban Maccabi Tel Aviv fans was “not a decision of West Midlands Police.” Whilst that phrase is correctly quoted, the implication is that this is a matter of opinion on my part, as opposed to it being a matter of fact and law, albeit the decision of the SAG was based on the recommendation of WMP.

The Committee has failed to act in accordance with the requirements of procedural fairness, because this conclusion has been reached, without my having been provided with an opportunity to respond, prior to publication of the report, either at the Committee hearing on Monday 1 December 2025 or following the hearing in writing.

As a consequence, it is essential as a matter of urgency, the Committee immediately deletes from the Report, reference to the conclusion referred to above or, if that is not possible, publication of the Report is postponed; and the Committee immediately issues an instruction to all media outlets, to which the Committee’s press release and Report have been circulated, not to report this conclusion, pending completion of the process, that will ensure it has acted in accordance with the requirements of procedural fairness.

I look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Foster', written in a cursive style.

Simon Foster
Police and Crime Commissioner