

Sharon Cicco
Chair, Football Safety Officers Association

By email to: scicco@arsenal.co.uk

6 May 2016

Dear Sharon,

As you will be aware the Hillsborough Inquests were opened in 2014 following publication of an Independent Panel report which provided evidence about the events leading up to, and the disaster at Hillsborough in 1989.

On 26 April 2016, the Jury reached their decision on the 14 questions set out by the Coroner, and have concluded that the 96 people who died were unlawfully killed. They have found that there were errors and omissions by the police and determined that there were features of the design and construction of the stadium that contributed to the disaster. They also found errors and omissions in the safety certification and oversight, and a lack of pre-match and contingency planning. The Jury found that there was no behaviour by supporters that contributed to the disaster.

As the Government's expert body on spectator safety, we are reviewing all findings from the Inquests in relation to spectator safety.

Sports grounds have been transformed since the tragic events at Hillsborough and clubs working together with the local authority, police, fire and ambulance services, the football authorities, the FSOA and the SGSA, have played a significant part in making the UK one of the safest places in the world to watch live sport. However, the Inquests are a reminder that we must never be complacent about spectator safety.

The SGSA works in partnership to educate and influence and deliver our purpose to ensure that all spectators can enjoy watching sport in safety. As we have set out in our [five year strategy](#), we do this in line with our values of excellence, independence, integrity and partnership working.

We know how committed Safety Officers are to ensuring the safety and security of spectators in their grounds. We encourage you to continue the excellent work you do in bringing safety professionals together to share challenges, learn from each other and to improve all aspects of stadium safety.

It is important that we all play our part to avoid complacency and we encourage all parties to work together to help ensure the safety of spectators at sports grounds. I am also writing to the Chief Executives of all Football League and Premier League clubs, Chief Executives of local authorities which oversee a Football League or Premier League club and the Football Authorities.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Eyre-White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Eyre-White

Chief Executive, Sports Grounds Safety Authority