



Greenock Morton Supporters' Society Ltd

26 April 2005

Justice Department
Police and Community Safety Group
Scottish Executive
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

Dear Mr Ferguson,

As a consultee for the proposed legislation on Supporting Police, Protecting Communities we have read the proposals for legislation and have answered the following questions in relation to the proposals for Football Banning Orders.

Q15

Do you agree that football banning orders as described above are an appropriate and effective response to the problem of football-related violence and disorder?

A15

We believe the proposals would be effective and appropriate for the national team and a few high profile SPL clubs. For the smaller SPL clubs and all of the SFL we believe better policing and stewarding, backed up by short term bans by the clubs themselves would be more appropriate, effective and much easier to implement. This could be made a requirement of club licensing by the SFA.

Q16

Do you agree that courts should be able to impose banning orders *on conviction* for a football-related offence and *on summary application* by a Chief Constable?

A16

We believe a ban "*on conviction*" should only apply where the offence results in imprisonment. "*On summary application*" should require the police to show conviction out with Scotland similar to that required within Scotland rather than just arrest, or persistent serious violence or disorder.

Q17

Do you agree that the courts should be able to make a banning order if they are satisfied that it would help reduce football-related *disorder*, specifically the stirring up of hatred against others or threatening, abusive or insulting behaviour at or in connection with a football match?

A17

We agree with bans for this type of behaviour but think they should in first instance be for less time than those for violence.

Q18

Do you agree with the proposed length of a banning order and the proposed penalty for breach of a banning order?

A18

We disagree with these periods. For a first-time ban we would suggest - for "*conviction*" resulting in imprisonment, 5 years.- for "summary application" for violence, 2 years - for "*summary application*" for disorder, 1 year. For second or subsequent bans we suggest the periods of 10, 5 and 3 years respectively. We agree with the proposal for breach of an order.

Q19

Do you agree that banning orders should apply to all competitive and friendly games involving the Scottish national team and the SPL and SFL clubs? If, not which games do you think they should apply to?

A19

See our answer to Q 15. We would limit these to the national team and the SPL.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Duncan
Chairman GMST

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