Written evidence submitted by FIFA

Letter from Fatma Samoura, Secretary General, FIFA, to the Chair of the Committee, 23 August 2017

We acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your correspondence dated 17 August 2017 addressed to the FIFA President, which received our full attention. As a preliminary remark, we would like to point out that this matter was referred to the General Secretariat of FIFA, as this does not pertain to the duties of the FIFA President.

Furthermore, we take note that, as part of the House of Commons Select Committee for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport ongoing inquiry into sports governance, the committee you chair intends to call Dr Cornel Borbély, former Chairman of the investigatory chamber of the FIFA Ethics Committee, as a witness.

In this regard, we would like to inform you that the FIFA Code of Ethics, as well as the relevant Swiss Law (both civil and potentially also criminal law), prevent Dr Borbély to be called and participate as a witness in front of the aforementioned committee. In particular, Dr Borbély remains bound by his duty of confidentiality also after the end of his term as Chairman of the investigatory chamber of the FIFA Ethics Committee.

In view of the fact that both respecting the legal framework as well as protecting the confidentiality of ethics investigations are key principles FIFA adheres to, we are sure you understand our answer and thank you for your kind attention to the above.

Fatma Samoura
Secretary General
FIFA

Letter from the Chair of the Committee
to Gianni Infantino, President, FIFA, 17 August 2017

Dear Mr Infantino,

I am writing with regards to a forthcoming evidence session of the House of Commons Select Committee for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. As part of our inquiry into sports governance the Committee intends to take evidence from Dr Cornel Borbély, the former Chairman of the investigatory chamber of the FIFA Ethics Committee. This hearing would form part of the Committee’s ongoing inquiry into sports governance, which has looked in particular into issues within football, cycling, athletics and tennis, and the work that is being done to address them.

We would be interested in discussing with Dr Borbély his important work at FIFA, and would like to ask whether FIFA has any objection to Dr Borbély being called as a witness. As is normal in formal proceedings of the Select Committee, his evidence would be protected by Parliamentary Privilege, so that the public interest may be served by allowing witnesses to respond to questions honestly and to the best of their knowledge. Would you be able to confirm that you have no objection to him so doing?

I agreed with Dr Borbély that I would notify you of this. We are looking at dates for him to give evidence to the committee in September, and I would be grateful for any response that you might be able to give to us before then.

Damian Collins MP
Chair of the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee