



Prime Minister.
 For Jonathan, I shall
 get a report after Working
 Group meeting for our
 discussion at 17.30.
 MW 10/7

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
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My ref:
 Your ref:

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 B1.
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10 July 1985

Dear Prime Minister:

A number of points arose during the discussion we had yesterday on video and CCTV, on which you might like information quickly.

At present, only 4 League clubs (Chelsea, Leeds United, Aston Villa and Stoke) have closed circuit television equipment in place. In addition the Football Trust's experimental scheme has provided mobile equipment, with facilities for its installation and use in a further 11 grounds, of which 2 are in Scotland. The existing equipment at the 4 clubs is not suitable for providing pictures that could be used as evidence against individuals; it is designed and used to assist crowd control. However, replacement and/or enhancement is already in the Football Trust's programme, for Chelsea and Leeds at least.

The Trust will now be considering urgently how to allocate its CCTV funds. The Home Office is providing advice on the equipment specification. Morys Aberdare said yesterday that the Trust expects to provide equipment in up to 30 grounds; at a Trust meeting last week it was agreed that a small working group, comprising the Trust's secretary, and representatives of the Football Association and the Football League would establish a programme and set priorities amongst the clubs. I shall be discussing the programme at the meeting of my Working Group tomorrow morning.

I have to say that I am not expecting tomorrow's meeting to be harmonious. You already know that the League made a public announcement last week - without any warning, and in the middle of the debate in the House on the alcohol Bill - of its "10 point Survival Plan". One of the points amounted to a rejection of a membership card scheme; 7 of the 10 points were for other people, and in particular Government, to act on. There was a heavy emphasis upon finance.

But this is not how it looked on the surface. The League said they would consider further a scheme based on clubs.

We must see that announcement as the League's formal drawing of battle lines for a public argument with the Government. So far, we have made considerable efforts to avoid a row; we have not lacked the opportunity or the occasion. We have seen little evidence that the football authorities have the will to take any action themselves, while the Government has done a great deal; the "survival plan", in my view, makes their position crystal clear, and I think we must now tell them firmly that we do not intend to shoulder their responsibilities for them. I shall, of course, let you have a report of what happens at the meeting, with recommendations for the next steps to take.

I am copying this letter to Leon Brittan, Patrick Jenkin and George Younger.

James

Neil Macfarlane

NEIL MACFARLANE

