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Our reference:
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29 July 1985

Chief Executives, County Councils
Director General, GLC
Chief Officers of Police

Dear Sir

HOME OFFICE CIRCULAR NO 54/1985

SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS

- A. COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO CROWD SAFETY AND CONTROL AT SPORTS GROUNDS - INTERIM REPORT (Cmnd 9585)
- B. CHIEF FIRE OFFICER REPORTS

1. The Interim Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Crowd Safety and Control at Sports Grounds set up by the Home Secretary following the events of 11 May at Bradford City FC and Birmingham City FC has now been published. The purpose of this circular is, first, to inform recipients of the recommendations of the Inquiry and the Government's response to them; and, secondly, to urge recipients to respond quickly and constructively to the spirit of the recommendations in order to improve, as necessary, existing safety and crowd control measures at sports grounds.

A. COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO CROWD SAFETY AND CONTROL AT SPORTS GROUNDS

2. The Report concludes that the Bradford fire was caused accidentally and comments that, had the safety advice contained in the Home Office Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (Football) (the 'Green Guide') been followed, the tragedy would not have occurred. On the Birmingham City FC incident, the Report concludes that the disorder was the product of violence by both sets of fans to a degree which the police could not reasonably have foreseen.

3. Attached at Annex A is a copy of the text of the Home Secretary's oral statement to Parliament on 24 July responding to the Inquiry's Interim Report and at Annex B a copy of his more detailed written statement. The latter sets out each of the Report's recommendations, including the provisional recommendations, and the Government's responses to them. All this material has been circulated to the governing bodies of the major sports in England and Wales listed at Annex C in the expectation that they will advise their members to continue to co-operate by assisting in the implementation of the Inquiry's recommendations.

4. A number of the Report's recommendations have implications for the responsibilities of local authorities, chief fire officers and chief officers of police. They are all accordingly invited to

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consider as a matter of urgency what steps they should take as necessary in their particular local circumstances to give effect - where possible in time for the start of the 1985/86 football season - to the recommendations that relate to their responsibilities. Although a number of the points will have already been dealt with either as a result of the recent exercise by chief fire officers (see Part B below) or, in the case of designated stadia, by existing safety certificate conditions, certificating authorities are nonetheless requested to review their certification procedures and existing certificates so as to incorporate as necessary the Inquiry's interim recommendations. In so doing, authorities should bear in mind that it is not considered that action upon the Inquiry's recommended amendments to the Green Guide should wait upon the issue of the next edition of the Green Guide. (This will not be prepared until after the Final Report is received.)

5. The specific points for consideration by the responsible authorities are as follows:

(a) Certificating authorities are asked to -

- (i) ensure that the police form part of the issuing team for safety certificates (Recommendation 1);
- (ii) consider inclusion of a condition within safety certificates for adequate first-aid facilities (Recommendation 8);
- (iii) consult chief fire officers over the adequacy of exits at all sports grounds with the aim of reflecting the advice in new or existing safety certificates as necessary, bearing in mind spectator numbers to be permitted into the ground or part of the ground and in the case of non-designated grounds, and the emergency procedures under section 10 of the 1975 Act (Recommendation 14);
- (iv) for designated stadia, consider the feasibility of including a smoking prohibition as a safety certificate condition where stands made of combustible materials are in use (Recommendation 15);
- (v) give preliminary thought to how best a sports ground register might be set up and used - see also paragraph 7 below (Recommendation 17);
- (vi) consider with the emergency services and appropriate authorities the practicability and enforcement of a no-parking zone around sports grounds when an event is likely to attract significant crowds (Recommendation 18);
- (vii) consider whether safety certificate conditions relating to manned exits require amplification or amendment, and how best to implement (e.g. protection of stewards by a police presence on exit gates) and ensure compliance (Recommendation 11); and
- (viii) review for inclusion in new and existing safety certificates suitable requirements relating to training and instruction of stewards (Recommendation 12).

(b) Chief Fire Officers are asked to -

- (i) consult and advise management of non-designated sports grounds on the presence, location and nature of fire-fighting equipment (using the standards adopted for safety certification at designated grounds as the yardstick) (Recommendation 6);
- (ii) by arrangement with sports grounds managers, give assistance in fire-fighting training for stewards (Recommendations 7, 10 and 12);
- (iii) advise sports grounds management and local authorities on the adequacy and suitability of exits at sports grounds in relation to the spectator numbers permitted to attend the ground or part of the ground (Recommendation 14); and
- (iv) continue, as necessary, inspections of uncertificated stadia to assess the need to restrict or prohibit for reasons of fire safety the number of spectators at a ground or particular part of a ground (Recommendation 16): see also paragraphs 6 and 9 below.

(c) Chief Officers of Police are asked to -

- (i) consider how evacuation procedures at individual grounds can best be incorporated into police training and form part of pre-event briefing (Recommendation 1);
- (ii) continue provision for police representation within local authority teams for issuing safety certificates (Recommendation 2);
- (iii) consult the management of sports grounds where a police presence is required at an event (or events) for crowd control within the ground about the training of stewards on how best to assist the police in an evacuation (Recommendation 10); and
- (iv) consider, in collaboration with the local authority (see 3(a)(vii) above) and sports grounds management, how to assist in manning exit gates.

6. As regards designated stadia, certificating authorities in collaboration with chief fire officers and chief officers of police will no doubt wish to consider whether, following the Home Office letter on designation of 19 July to Chief Executives, the best way to effect quickly some of the Interim Report's recommendations (particularly where structural alterations are involved) will be to set a lower spectator ceiling based on the normal level of attendance, rather than the nominal maximum capacity. Many sports grounds and stadia which do not fall within the present scope of designation under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 will have already been inspected by chief fire officers. It is hoped that supplementary advice on such matters as fire fighting equipment, training in fire fighting and evacuation procedures will be given to the management and staff of sports grounds as needed in the knowledge of the power to take emergency action where necessary.

7. Consultations with the AMA and ACC will take place with the object of determining how best local registration of sports grounds might be achieved (Recommendation 17). As for the nature of materials used in construction of new stands (Recommendation 13), it is suggested that building and planning authorities continue their present practices unless and until further advice is received.

B. CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS REPORTS ON SPORTS GROUNDS

8. The Home Secretary has expressed his gratitude to chief fire officers for the prompt and efficient manner in which the survey of sports grounds has been carried out - see Annex A. Work on analysing the reports is continuing in the Home Office and a digest of them will be submitted to the Inquiry. The Home Secretary's statements indicate the important results of the surveys on which immediate action has been taken by brigades.

9. It is appreciated that, in responding to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services' letter of 16 May to chief fire officers, some brigades were only able to concentrate inspections on uncertificated sports stadia with accommodation for more than 10,000 spectators (i.e. which could be designated under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975). However, a large number of brigades in whose area there were fewer sports grounds of this capacity were able to extend their inspections to sports grounds with accommodation for far fewer than 10,000 spectators. Section 10 of the 1975 Act is applicable to sports grounds irrespective of the number of spectators accommodated and it is important that those brigades which have not so far inspected sports grounds with accommodation for less than 10,000 spectators should do so as priorities and resources permit so that stands which represent a serious fire hazard can be identified and remedial action taken (Recommendation 16).

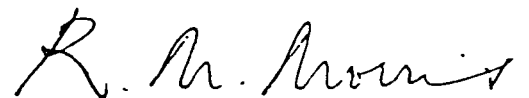
10. An extra copy of this circular and Annexes is attached for chief fire officers. In view of the provisions of s.16 of the Local Government Act 1985 copies are being sent also to the Chief Executives of metropolitan district councils and London boroughs.

11. Any enquiries should be directed to -

Mr D J Mould re. Part A. (01)-213 3582

Mr J Fisher re. Part B. (01)-213 7338

Yours faithfully



R M MORRIS

Sports Grounds (Safety and Control)

3.53 pm

Mr. Max Madden (Bradford, West): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. You have expressed your concern in the past—most recently yesterday—about reports to this House being made available in advance to the media. I understand that the report of Mr. Justice Popplewell's committee of inquiry into safety and control at sports grounds, about which there is to be a statement, was made available yesterday to the media under an embargo. I checked at the Vote Office at 11 am and was told that the report was not available. I was also told that there was no indication of when it would be made available to hon. Members. I was subsequently informed that it was made available at or about midday.

As the report relates to very important matters, not least to the death and injury of our constituents, many hon. Members can see no good reason why reports to this House should be made available to the media under an embargo but should be denied to Members of the House until hours before a statement is to be made, thus putting us in a very poor position to put questions to the responsible Minister on a report which was made available to the media long before it was made available to hon. Members. Can you please, Mr. Speaker, do something to ensure that Government Departments stop this practice, which causes considerable annoyance to all hon. Members?

Mr. Speaker: I am not certain that I can do much more than continue to express my sympathy with what the hon. Gentleman said, and with what was said yesterday and previously. It is a matter for the Government, not for me. However, the Leader of the House is here and will have noted what has been said.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Leon Brittan): Further to that point of order, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I should say that I regret what has occurred. The plan was that the report would be published at 10.30 this morning, which I hope the House will feel would have given hon. Members enough time to consider it carefully.

With permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a statement. The Government have today published the interim report of the inquiry into safety and control at sports grounds under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Popplewell, established following the tragic fire at Bradford city football ground, and the events at Birmingham city on 11 May. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland and I are both deeply grateful for the speedy, clear and thorough way in which the chairman and his two assessors have tackled this difficult and important task.

The inquiry concludes that the Bradford fire was probably caused by the accidental dropping of a lighted match or cigarette or tobacco on to accumulated rubbish below the stand; that had the guide to safety at sports grounds—the "green guide"—been complied with, the tragedy would not have occurred; and that the riot at Birmingham—which the police could not reasonably have foreseen—was caused by spectators bent from the outset on violence. No one reading the report, or who followed the public hearings in Bradford, can doubt that the inquiry has investigated these matters as thoroughly as possible.

The inquiry makes 32 recommendations, eight of which are provisional. They fall into two groups: those concerned with safety and those concerned with control. I am making available separately a written statement dealing with each of the recommendations.

The safety recommendations include several designed to improve arrangements at sports grounds by, for example, improving evacuation procedures, the training of stewards, the provision of fire-fighting equipment and increasing the scope of safety certificates. In all those cases the Government will be inviting the local authorities, the police and the sports authorities to respond immediately to the spirit of the recommendations. The Government will issue a fresh edition of the guide to safety at sports grounds, the green guide, in the light of the inquiry's final report. But they will also ask certificating authorities and the police, in exercising their powers to take full account of the recommendations for amending the green guide, before the issue of the new edition. There is no need for them to wait.

On crowd control, the inquiry has made a number of important recommendations concerning membership cards and closed circuit television, the creation of new criminal offences relating to smoke bombs and the throwing of missiles and the need for a more suitable police radio.

On membership cards, the inquiry recommends that urgent consideration be given by football clubs in England and Wales to introducing a membership system so as to exclude visiting fans. Also recommended is that closed circuit television be introduced at league football grounds. The Government strongly support the television recommendation, and have already made clear their support for a scheme of membership cards to help exclude troublemakers. A Football League working party is considering the options and I would urge the league and the Football Association to take heed of the recommendations of the inquiry by seeking jointly to reach positive conclusions at the earliest practicable date.

It is also proposed that new offences should be created making criminal the possession of smoke bombs in football grounds and the throwing of missiles. This proposal will be carefully considered for possible inclusion in the public order legislation that the Government hope to introduce next Session. The Directorate of Telecommunications at the Home Office will also consider, as a matter of urgency, how best to meet the concern expressed about the personal police radios used at Bradford.

In its provisional conclusions, the inquiry states that it is minded to recommend changes to the provisions of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975; that the police be given additional powers of search and arrest; and that consideration be given to the creation of a specific offence of chanting obscene or racist abuse at a sports ground. We shall, of course, consider with care any recommendations that the inquiry makes on these and other points in the final report.

I hope that it will also be convenient for me to bring the House up to date on matters relating to safety and control since my statement on 13 May. First, under the Safety at Sports Grounds Act I have designated all the qualifying grounds of clubs in divisions 3 and 4 in the Football League in England and Wales, as well as in divisions 1 and 2 of the Rugby League. The necessary orders were laid on 19 July and come into force on 9 August. From the latter date, clubs will be required to apply for safety certificates

before admitting any spectators. I have made it clear to the certifying authorities that the expectation is that they will work swiftly, normally by means of issuing interim certificates. In some cases, the best way of providing immediate protection—while also reducing the costs of implementation—may well be to restrict attendance ceilings in grounds or parts of grounds.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland has decided for his part not to proceed at present by extending designation in Scotland beyond its existing limits. However, he has arranged for all non-designated clubs and all governing bodies in sport in Scotland to conduct an urgent review of ground safety in co-operation with their local fire authorities.

Secondly, all uncertificated grounds of the third and fourth divisions of the Football League, of the first and second divisions of the Scottish Football League, and of the first and second divisions of the Rugby League have been inspected as a result of the request that I and my right hon. Friend made to chief fire officers and firemasters. In addition, accommodation for spectators at the larger cricket grounds, Rugby Union grounds, race courses, motor racing tracks, greyhound tracks, tennis clubs and athletics grounds has been inspected.

Chief fire officers and firemasters have sent copies of their findings to the management of the sports grounds showing what remedial measures have to be taken. In some cases, this will involve the complete closure of a stand until rebuilding or remedial work has been completed. In other cases, strict limits are being placed on the number of spectators allowed into the stand. My hon. Friend the Minister responsible for sport will be looking further at the financial implications with the interests concerned in his working group on the financing of safety improvements. Managements have responded in a co-operative way and have either set necessary work in hand or are considering how to comply with the requirements. Local authorities and local fire authorities have sufficient statutory powers to ensure that essential fire safety requirements are complied with. These will in no way be affected by the separate proposals directed towards streamlining the present law on fire precautions published yesterday in a consultative document and which I am inviting the inquiry also to consider in the context of its work.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland and I are grateful to chief fire officers and firemasters for the prompt, efficient and careful manner in which this survey has been carried out. A digest of the reports will be submitted to the inquiry.

Thirdly, the House will, of course, be aware of the rapid passage through both Houses of the Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol Etc.) Bill. It will be in force by the beginning of the football season.

Fourthly, steps have also been taken to enhance police effectiveness next season. In England and Wales the Association of Chief Police Officers has introduced a new system for exchanging information about the conduct of fans, which should assist in anticipating and preventing trouble. Three of the Home Office photographic vehicles will be available to be deployed at football matches, together with two experimental high-definition tripod-mounted cameras. This is in addition to the £500,000 worth of closed circuit television equipment purchased through funds provided by the Football Trust.

Fifthly, my hon. Friend the Minister responsible for sport has helped to promote and draw up a Council of Europe convention on spectator violence which was adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers yesterday.

There is no single, simple method of making sports grounds safe and free from violence, but I believe that the steps taken in the past few months, coupled with the implementation of the important recommendations of Mr. Justice Popplewell's inquiry, have already made, and will make, a significant contribution towards preserving football as a major spectator sport.

Mr. Gerald Kaufman (Manchester, Gorton): This report makes profoundly depressing reading. We must pay tribute to Mr. Justice Popplewell for the care with which, in the limited time available to him, he has looked into these matters. The account of the events leading up to the Bradford fire is particularly heart-rending in the aftermath of Sunday's moving memorial service. The description of what took place in Birmingham is a sickening catalogue of mindless violence and brutality.

We need to know what can be done urgently to prevent such outrages and tragedies from happening again. In that context, the press handout accompanying the report is simply impractical in declaring:

"The Committee has produced an interim report so that safety levels can be improved quickly before the start of the new football season in August".

The new football season begins in just over three weeks and although the report contains a number of useful and sometimes important recommendations, hardly any of them could be implemented and have a noticeable effect in time for 17 August.

For example, recommendations about improving the efficiency and increasing the responsibilities of stewards assume that stewards can be trained to be some kind of super-efficient élite corps. Anyone who knows the real world of football stewarding knows that this is more easily said than done. The report points out that in Bradford, for example, the ages of the stewards ranged from 73 to 12.

Again, the report's recommendations on installation of perimeter fencing does not resolve the two conflicting roles of such fencing as, on the one hand, a protection of the pitch against hooligans and on the other a prison penning in potential fire victims in circumstances of panic.

Certain recommendations do not seem to have been thought through. For example, the proposed ban on all cars being parked within a quarter of a mile of football grounds means that law-abiding householders will be prevented from parking their cars outside their homes. This will affect my constituents, for example, and no doubt many thousands of other people.

Again, immediate designation of all sports grounds with a capacity of 500 or more as recommended, could affect 50,000 small grounds. Is this remotely practicable? Again, there are serious doubts among the football authorities and the police about the principle and practicality of two Popplewell recommendations—that of admission by membership tickets only and that only registered supporters of home teams should be permitted to attend games. This is an unprecedented proposal with serious implications, which Mr. Justice Popplewell does not seem to have considered.

Even if we set aside these issues, has anything been done about such recommendations? We are now nearly two months beyond the time limit set by the Government

ANNEX B

INQUIRY INTO CROWD SAFETY AND CONTROL AT SPORTS GROUNDS INTERIM REPORT JULY 1985 (CMND 9585)

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

GROUND MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Evacuation procedures should be a matter of police training and form part of the briefing by police officers before a football match. (Paragraph 3.9).
2. The local authority team responsible for issuing safety certificates in respect of designated grounds should, as heretofore, include police officers. (Paragraph 3.15)

Certificating authorities and chief officers of police will be invited to act upon these recommendations (see also Recommendation 10).

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Those managing sports grounds not governed by safety certificates should give serious consideration, with the assistance of fire authorities, to the presence in a ground of suitable fire fighting equipment. (Paragraph 3.54)
7. Stewards at all sports grounds should be trained in fire fighting. (Paragraph 3.55)
8. In designated grounds it should be a term of the safety certificate that an adequate first-aid room should be provided. (Paragraph 3.99)

10. Stewards in all grounds should not only be trained in fire precautions and fire-fighting (see Recommendation 7 above) but should also be trained in how best to help the police in evacuation.

(Paragraph 3.104)

14. Suitable and adequate exits should be provided in all sports grounds. (Paragraph 3.138)

15. No smoking should take place in combustible stands, that this should be a condition of entry to the ground that signs to that effect should be prominently displayed and this should be a condition of entry to the ground. (Paragraph 3.141)

The relevant sports authorities will be invited to draw the attention of sports grounds managers to these recommendations, and certificating authorities will be asked to consider reflecting the recommendations in new or amended safety certificates as appropriate in the case of designated grounds. The fire and police services will be asked to stand ready to advise on equipment and assist with training as appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

9. There should be urgent consultation between the Health and Safety Executive and the fire authorities and local authorities as to how best to co-ordinate and communicate their inspections and reports.

(Paragraph 3.95)

The HSE has appointed a member of its Executive to review liaison arrangements between its inspectors and the fire authorities. He will consult Government Departments and others in this review, the results of which will be made public.

RECOMMENDATION

16. Fire Authorities should identify and visit all sports stadia in their areas and should prohibit or restrict the use of any stands which, in their view, constitute a risk to spectators because of the inadequacy of the fire precautions. (Paragraph 3.142)

Chief Fire Officers in England and Wales were invited by the Home Secretary on 16 May to inspect all sports grounds and were reminded of the powers available to them to take emergency action if, in their view, fire hazards constituting a risk to spectators are revealed. The Secretary of State for Scotland similarly asked Firemasters to inspect sports grounds in Scotland. Reports received show that fire brigades have not hesitated to recommend emergency action where necessary, including in a number of cases a prohibition on the use of stands or a restriction on the number of spectators allowed into them.

RECOMMENDATION

17. In order to ensure a complete record of sports grounds a local registration system should be set up. (Paragraph 3.150)

Consultation will take place with the local authority associations to establish how such records may best be compiled and maintained. The recent visits of the fire brigades (see Recommendation 16) should have in practice marshalled much of the relevant data already.

STRUCTURES

RECOMMENDATION

13. Building of new permanent stands of combustible materials should be prohibited as a general rule. (Paragraph 3.132)

This recommendation will be given speedy and urgent consideration by the Departments who are responsible for building regulations.

GREEN GUIDE

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. The Green Guide should be amended to include in Paragraph 11 a provision that, wherever practicable, roads within a quarter of a mile of a sports ground should be kept entirely free of parked vehicles. (Paragraph 3.35)

11. Paragraph 6.14.6 of the Green Guide should be amended to read: "All exit gates should be manned at all times while the ground is used by the public and be capable of being opened immediately from inside by anyone in an emergency." (Paragraph 3.111)

12. The Green Guide should be amended to contain a specific provision, in relation to stewards,

(i) that they should be trained and instructed to deal with any emergency relating to fire or evacuation (see also Recommendations 7 and 10);

(ii) that they should be given written instructions about the action to be taken in cases of emergency;

(iii) that they should receive practical instruction and training appropriate to their responsibility;

(iv) that no one should be employed as a steward unless they have been so instructed and trained; and

(v) that they should be adequate in number, physically and mentally capable of performing their duties, effectively deployed, effectively supervised and readily identifiable.

(Paragraph 3.117)

19. The next edition of the Green Guide should make it clear that it applies to all sports grounds. (Paragraph 3.154)

These points will be noted for inclusion in the next edition of the Green Guide which will be needed after the Inquiry's final report is received. Action will not however depend upon the availability of a fresh edition and certificating authorities and chief officers of police (Recommendation 4) will be invited to take such steps as are open to them now.

CROWD MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Consideration should be given to making it a criminal offence in England and Wales to have a smoke bomb or similar device at sports grounds. (Paragraph 3.42)

22. There should be a specific offence of throwing a missile at sports grounds. (Paragraph 6.57)

The case for inviting Parliament to create new criminal offences on these lines will be studied urgently in connection with the Government's intention of introducing legislation in the next session of Parliament following its review of the law relating to public order.

RECOMMENDATIONS

20. Urgent consideration should be given by football clubs in England and Wales to introducing membership system so as to exclude visiting fans. (Paragraph 6.48)

23. Football clubs should review their arrangements for entry and the organisation of their turnstiles. (Paragraph 6.62)

Both these recommendations are for football authorities and clubs, but the Government hopes that they will be given serious consideration. The Government has been encouraging the Football Association and the Football League to introduce a scheme of membership cards and the options are currently

being considered in a Football League working group: that group's attention will therefore be drawn to the Inquiry's Recommendation 20. The governing bodies' attention will also be drawn to Recommendation 23 which might be influenced by decisions upon Recommendation 20.

RECOMMENDATION

21. Closed circuit television should be introduced at League football grounds in England and Wales and in the Premier Division in Scotland.
(Paragraph 6.54)

The Football Trust has allocated £500,000 for the provision of CCTV equipment in League grounds during the 1985-86 season. The Trust's attention, and that of the Football Associations and the Football Leagues, will be drawn to this recommendation.

MISCELLANEOUS

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Early attention should be given by the Home Office Directorate of Telecommunications to consider the practicality of producing a more suitable personal radio for the police. (Paragraph 3.33)

18. Consideration should be given as how best to deal with temporary stands and marquees (Paragraph 3.151)

24. Consideration should be given to the design of a standard, efficient perimeter fence, with proper exits. (Paragraph 6.63)

Each of these will be studied as the Inquiry advises. Recommendations 18 and 24 may best be taken forward in the context of the Inquiry's next stage and when it turns to examine the Green Guide as a whole.

PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

(To be reviewed in the Final Report)

1. I am minded to recommend that in England and Wales the police should be given the unfettered right of search before entry to football grounds by statute. (Paragraph 3.41)
2. I am minded to recommend that Section 10 of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 should be amended with a view to giving the Fire Authority power in cases other than those which are regarded as wholly exceptional (Paragraph 3.61)
3. Linked with the above, I am minded to recommend that consideration should be given to introducing legislation giving powers for the Fire Authority to apply to the High Court for an injunction (or to the Court of Session for an interdict in Scotland) under Section 10 of the Fire Precautions Act 1971. (Paragraph 3.61)
4. I am minded to recommend that Section 10 of the Safety at Sports Grounds Act 1975 should be amended in like manner to Section 10 of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 (see Provisional Recommendations 2 and 3) and an application to the High Court for an injunction (or to the Court of Session for an interdict in Scotland) should be an alternative remedy. (Paragraph 3.76)
5. I am minded to recommend that the Secretary of State should exercise his powers to designate all sports grounds, whatever their size to include indoor as well as outdoor activities. (Paragraph 3.145)
6. I am minded to recommend immediate designation of any ground capable of holding over 5,000 spectators, to cover all sports grounds, not merely football grounds. (Paragraph 3.146)
7. I am minded to recommend that consideration should be given to providing the police with additional powers of arrest under the Public Order Act, 1936. (Paragraph 6.66)
8. I am minded to recommend that consideration should be given to creating a specific offence of chanting obscene or racist abuse at a sports ground. (Paragraph 6.67)

These are noted and the Government will stand by to assist the Inquiry in its further consideration of the matters.

Sporting bodies to whom material has been circulated.

Football Association

Welsh Football Association

Football League

Rugby League

Welsh Rugby Union

Rugby Union

Lawn Tennis Association

Cricket Council

National Greyhound Racing Club

The Jockey Club

Speedway Central Board

Speedworth International Ltd.

British Amateur Athletic Board

British Show Jumping Association

RAC Motor Sports Association Ltd.