



Department for  
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29 July 2021

Our Ref: MC2021/13966/DS

Dear Mary,

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 July to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP, on behalf of a number of your constituents regarding the proposed takeover of Newcastle United Football Club. I am replying as Minister for Sport and Tourism.

We know how important the club is to the city and the incredible work it does in the local community. It is a crucial part of the city's identity and heritage, both on and off the pitch.

We understand fans' frustration over the past year, but the government has always been clear that it has never had a role in the prospective takeover. The takeover is a matter for the two parties involved – the Premier League and Newcastle United FC – as is the arbitration procedure, and DCMS ministers cannot interfere in this legal process. We would, though, encourage the Premier League to be as transparent as possible in the circumstances, whilst understanding that these are complex and commercially-sensitive issues.

An independent regulator and the Owners' and Directors' Test are both being considered as part of the fan led review of football governance, chaired by Tracey Crouch MP. As you may know, the review recently announced its interim findings, which can be found [here](#), and DCMS ministers look forward to the final report in the autumn.

Nigel Huddleston MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport and Tourism

