

# MAYOR OF LONDON

**Richard Scudamore**

Chief Executive  
Premier League  
30 Gloucester Place  
London W1U 8PL

Date: 09 AUG 2017

Dear Richard,

London is the world's greatest city for watching football. Fans come from across the city, across the country and across the globe to enjoy the London matchday experience.

The foundation of London's success – including that of its football clubs – is safety. Thanks to many years of hard work between the Metropolitan Police Service and football clubs, fans have confidence that matches in London will be safe for them and for their families to attend.

That safety comes at a cost, and at a time when policing is so stretched, Londoners – myself included – are greatly concerned that the Met recoups so little of that cost from clubs, including those in the wealthiest football league in the world.

Since 2010, the Met has had to save £700m as a result of Government funding cuts. With demand and inflationary pressure continuing to increase, and with Government funding failing to match that, a further £380m has to be saved by 2021/22. This situation is gravely concerning, and could result in officer numbers dropping below 30,000 for the first time since 2003 – when the city's population was nearly 1.5m lower than it is today.

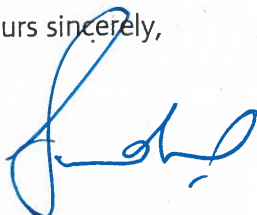
I am doing everything I can to protect the Met. I have taken the very difficult decision to increase the amount we raise for policing through Council Tax by the maximum amount possible. I have opened a consultation with the public on proposals to close a number of police front counters around the city, in order to save £10m in annual running costs. I am pressing the case for greater police funding to the highest levels of Government.

The presence of football clubs in our city and the associated policing implications are not taken into account in any of the Government's funding mechanisms for the Met, and as such, we receive no funding from the taxes clubs pay. As a consequence, last year, the Met spent around £6.7m on the policing of football matches in London. It received less than 5 per cent of those costs back from clubs.

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I would welcome a meeting to ask you directly whether the Premier League will step up and make a bigger contribution to the policing of matchdays in London. I believe that this could be a further positive and visible demonstration of the League's appreciation of the support that the Met police provide to the safety of fans and Londoners more generally. I will ask my office to make contact so that we can make the necessary arrangements for a meeting.

Yours sincerely,



**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London