

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

39th Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Tuesday, 19 December 2023

Scottish Football Association: Evidence session

Note by the clerk

Background

1. The Scottish Football Association (SFA) is the governing body for football in Scotland, representing its member clubs and affiliated regional associations. The SFA is a member of UEFA and FIFA and holds a position on the International Football Association Board (IFAB), the body that determines the Laws of the Game.
2. Founded in 1873, the SFA is one of the oldest national associations in the world – with the aim of promoting, fostering, and developing the game at all levels in Scotland.
3. In May 2023, the Committee [wrote to the Scottish Football Association](#) to express its concerns regarding the changing of the Scottish Cup Final kick-off time from 3pm to 5.30pm, and the disruption caused to fans.
4. Following a series of letters exchanged between the Committee and the SFA, Members expressed an interest in holding a one-off evidence session with the SFA, to discuss the above and other issues concerning football in Scotland.
5. In June 2023, a [fan-led review was commissioned and published](#) by the Scottish Football Supporters Association. The review was headed by a Scottish Football Alliance working group, comprised of supporters, players, coaches, officials, and club representatives, led by Henry McLeish.
6. The Committee has also expressed an interest in exploring wider issues in Scottish football at this meeting – such as governance, Project Brave, child wellbeing, youth development, facilities, and inequalities.

Today's meeting

7. At the meeting, Members will take evidence from representatives of the SFA, led by Ian Maxwell, Chief Executive of the Scottish Football Association.

Clerks to the Committee

14 December 2021