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Caroline Lucas MP
House of Commons
London
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Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your recent email to Greg Dyke in which you outline the concerns you have regarding the 2018 World Cup in Russia. The Chairman has asked me to reply on his behalf.

As you know, the World Cup is a FIFA tournament and the host nation was selected by FIFA. We are very conscious of the allegations surrounding the hosting decision, not least as The FA has also been a participant in the FIFA inquiry. The outcome of this inquiry led to FIFA confirming that they will not remove the hosting rights from Russia and as a result, unless any other investigations clearly demonstrate that the bid was not fairly won, The FA will work with FIFA and related authorities to prepare for the tournament taking place.

We share your concerns about human rights and racism in football in Russia, and continue to monitor both. With regard to the latter, we are hopeful that the FIFA Task Force on Anti-Discrimination will soon be reinstated to continue the work it started in this field. FA Board Member Heather Rabbatts was a member of that Task Force to play a role with it, its members and stakeholders to address discrimination in football, with the FIFA World Cup in Russia high on the agenda.

You might also be interested to know that in May this year Wembley hosted the launch of FIFA's new anti-discrimination monitoring project for the 2018 World Cup. The new system will see 'Anti-Discrimination Match Observers' at every match working with stewards to report issues concerning discrimination at games. It is being run in conjunction with the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network, an organisation with long experience in the fight against discrimination in football and the deployment of match observers.

We will continue to work with FIFA, UEFA and other bodies to monitor the preparation for the World Cup to which end we are in close liaison with our diplomatic post in Russia. We will not be questioning the hosting rights of Russia at the current time.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Bateman
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