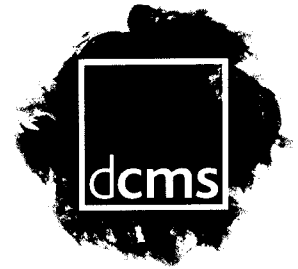


CMS 28099/DC

Brian Barwick  
Chief Executive  
The FA  
25 Soho Square  
LONDON  
W1D 4FA



10 November 2005

Dear Brian

### LICENSING ACT 2003 – HOSPITALITY BOXES

You will be aware that under existing law it is an offence in a designated sports ground to drink alcohol in sight of the pitch from 2 hours before the start of the match until 1 hour after the end of the match. Football clubs are currently able to apply for a certificate under section 3 of the Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc.) Act 1985 to allow spectators in hospitality boxes at football matches to drink alcohol up to 15 minutes before kick-off and from 15 minutes after the final whistle, if they can see the pitch.

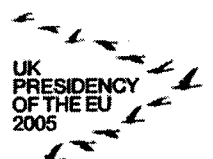
One of the intentions of the Licensing Act 2003 was to repeal the blanket ban in respect of hospitality boxes only and to allow individual licensing authorities to decide on the arrangements for alcohol sales in hospitality boxes at grounds within their jurisdiction.

It was brought to our attention that if the Licensing Act 2003 was effected as originally drafted the position in hospitality boxes would in fact be worsened, with drinking not allowed in sight of the pitch from 2 hours before the start of the match until 1 hour after the end of the match. This was obviously not our intention and we have taken steps to ensure that the status quo in relation to hospitality boxes is maintained.

We have therefore not commenced the relevant parts of the Licensing Act 2003 (parts of schedule 6 and schedule 7) which would have given effect to these changes. We are committed to amending the Act to achieve our original intention and will now consider how to take this forward.

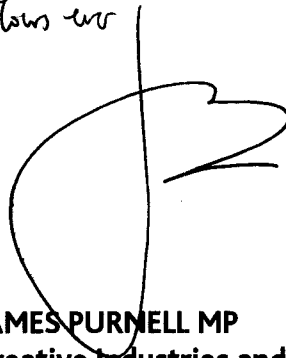


INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



> I understand that the FA has agreed to let football clubs know the position. I am also copying this letter to all licensing authorities and ACPO and placing a copy on our website.

*Yours etc*

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by 'PURNELL'.

**JAMES PURNELL MP**  
**Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism**