



**AVON AND SOMERSET CONSTABULARY**

**[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)**

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Date: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Dear Mr David Fear

**RE: Bristol City v Bristol Rovers, Testimonial match**

You may be aware that my colleague Superintendent Caroline Peters recently sent a letter to Mr Doug Harman at Bristol City Football Club in support of a letter from the Football Association regarding high risk and high profile pre-season matches.

I have copied below the paragraph from the aforementioned letter appertaining to the challenges that we will be facing during this period as a result of the Olympic Games.

“There are a number of reasons why pre-season matches are occasionally more problematic to police than League matches, but these will certainly be exacerbated this year with the huge staffing abstractions we are being asked to provide to the Olympic Games. During the build up to the new season we will have a variety of resources either wholly or partially unavailable to us, along with normal daily business to manage and a likely increased demand to police Olympic-related events within Avon and Somerset.”

I have now been nominated as the Police Commander for this proposed pre-season local derby match and I would urge you in the strongest possible terms to reconsider your plans. We are already receiving strong intelligence to indicate that this match will result in significant public disorder in Bristol and this will require me to dedicate substantial policing resources to manage the risk.

In my view this ‘friendly’ match is being arranged without consideration for the impact upon the wider Bristol community and on the impact on Policing resources despite our earlier request to avoid such games at this time. If this was a league game then clearly there would be no choice as to whether the match went ahead or not however in this case there clearly is a choice.

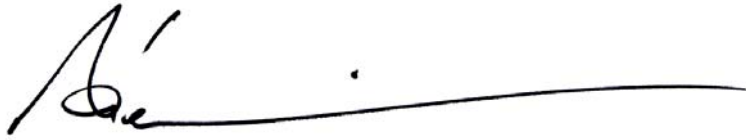
I am writing to you at this early stage so that you can be clear about the context in which you are arranging this match and about the position that I as the Police Commander will adopt in circumstances where significant public disorder in the City of Bristol is subject of wider media interest or public scrutiny.

If you choose to continue with the game as currently planned then we will be duty bound to provide appropriate policing resources and we will be charging you an appropriate fee to cover those resources. A testimonial match falls outside of the contract which the constabulary holds with Ashton Gate Ltd and, as such, the Avon and Somerset

Constabulary are bound to charge you at the recovery rates as set out in the latest ACPO guidance.

I would be grateful if you could give this message due consideration and advise me in writing at your earliest opportunity regarding your decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andy Francis', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Andy Francis  
Chief Superintendent  
Head of Communications Department