From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: RE: Independent Review of Sexual Abuse in Scottish Football
Date: 10 February 2021 17:24:05
Attachments: Martin Henry media statement Fe_2021.doc
Final Report statement.docx
Sensitivity: Confidential

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for sharing. I ve attached a copy of our release and that of Martin.

The survivors have all been informed of publication today (save a handful we ve not been able to get hold of so far who have been left messages or emails). The named clubs were told yesterday of publication and will receive an embargoed copy of the report first thing tomorrow morning. The rest of our membership will be notified around publication time.

Thanks

[redacted].

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 10 February 2021 16 52
To: [redacted]@scottishfa.co.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@scottishfa.co.uk>; Darryl.Broadfoot@framecreates.co.uk
Subject: RE Independent Review of Sexual Abuse in Scottish Football
Sensitivity: Confidential

[redacted]

Our slightly tweaked media lines are below. Can you share your lines when you get the opportunity please?

And could you remind me when clubs, survivors etc are being informed?

Thanks

[redacted]

"This report provides appalling testimonies of historical sexual abuse, and will be shocking for anyone who reads them, including many who follow Scotland's national sport. I applaud the courage of all the individuals who came forward to tell their stories.

"The independent Review found that most of the people who suffered sexual abuse did not tell anyone else at the time and, on the rare occasions where it was reported to organisations or clubs, little or no action was taken. That is tremendously distressing and has had a profound and long-lasting impact for those who were abused.

"The Review accepts that knowledge and practices were markedly different in the past than they are now, and recognises the recent efforts of the Scottish FA and its members to put in place a Child Protection and Wellbeing Strategy. It makes clear that continued culture change is imperative – this includes continuing to work closely with survivors to improve processes, challenging distorted thinking about sexual conduct or violence and creating positive attitudes to mental health. We fully support those aims.

"We also support the work of police and prosecutors in investigating allegations to bring perpetrators to justice. A number of individuals responsible have now been convicted and sentenced and there are also live criminal and civil proceedings still on-going. We encourage anyone who has experienced sexual abuse to come forward, if they feel comfortable doing so, to access the help available to them.

"The safety and wellbeing of all children and young people is paramount, as is ensuring victims of abuse are supported both through the justice system and beyond. We will carefully – but with urgency – consider this report and continue to engage with the Scottish FA and other key partners to ensure the findings are acted upon."

From: [redacted]
Sent: 09 February 2021 16 06
To: [redacted]>
Subject: RE Independent Review of Sexual Abuse in Scottish Football
Sensitivity: Confidential

[redacted]

After a busy day reading the report and speaking to colleagues, I've now provided advice to Ministers.

I've suggested some immediate media lines as below.

"This report provides appalling testimonies of historical sexual abuse, and will be shocking for anyone who loves football. I applaud the courage of all the individuals who came forward to tell their stories.

"The independent Review found that most of the people who suffered sexual abuse did not tell anyone else at the time and, on the rare occasions where it was reported to organisations or clubs, little or no action was taken. That is tremendously distressing and has had a profound and long-lasting impact for those who were abused.

"The Review accepts that knowledge and practices were markedly different in the past than they are now, and recognises the recent efforts of the Scottish FA and its members to put in place a Child Protection and Wellbeing Strategy. It makes clear that continued culture change is imperative – this includes continuing to work closely with survivors to improve processes, challenging distorted thinking about sexual conduct or violence and creating positive attitudes to mental health. We fully support those aims.

"We also support the work of police and prosecutors to bring perpetrators to justice and a number of individuals responsible have now been convicted and sentenced. We encourage anyone who has experienced sexual abuse to come forward, if they feel comfortable doing so, to access the help available to them.

"The safety and wellbeing of all children and young people is paramount, as is ensuring victims of abuse are supported both through the justice system and beyond. We will carefully – but with urgency – consider this report and continue to engage with the Scottish FA and other key partners before agreeing next steps."

I'll liaise with child protection colleagues and others over the next week or so to consider what further action we can or should take. May be worth us having a catch-up once Ministers have responded to my submission and agreed media lines etc.

I've also said they could have a word with you, [redacted] and / or [redacted] this week if they felt that would be helpful.

Happy, of course, for you to share this with [redacted] and [redacted].

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 09 February 2021 09 17
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Independent Review of Sexual Abuse in Scottish Football
Sensitivity: Confidential

Morning [redacted]

Please find attached an advance copy of the final report of the Independent Review of Sexual Abuse in Scottish Football. I am sharing this with you in confidence to help you to prepare for publication of the report. The report and its contents are strictly embargoed until 12 noon on Thursday 11 February when it will be published on the Scottish FA website.

Once you have had the opportunity to look at the report if there is anything you would like to discuss then please give me a call.

Thanks

[redacted].

[redacted]
Head of Wellbeing and Protection
The Scottish FA

+44 (0)141 616 [redacted] | +44 (0)[redacted]
[redacted]
www.scottishfa.co.uk

Martin Henry, the Chair of the Independent Review of Child Sexual Abuse in Scottish Football, today welcomed the publication of its final report.

“I would like to express my sincerest thanks to those who came forward with great courage and fortitude to contribute to the review by sharing their own personal experiences. I have said before that these accounts should make uncomfortable reading for everybody in Scottish society, not just those in football.

“It is to be hoped that the voices of those affected will now be heard and I hope today provides some assurance and a sense of personal justice and vindication.

“I am heartened by the progress made so far in Scottish football but today should not be considered the end of this journey but a critical juncture to provide context to the work that is under way and which must continue.

“I would also like to thank the review team for their dedication, sensitivity and integrity and for helping to produce a report that is intended to commit those responsible for the safety and wellbeing of young people in football to ensuring such abuse cannot be allowed to happen again.”

Thursday 11 February 2021
EMBARGOED 12pm

FINAL INDEPENDENT REPORT INTO NON-RECENT SEXUAL ABUSE IN SCOTTISH FOOTBALL PUBLISHED

Scottish FA Chief Executive Ian Maxwell reiterates apology to survivors on behalf of the national game as governing body updates on progress of interim report recommendations

The board of the Scottish FA, having reviewed the final report of the Independent Review of Sexual Abuse in Scottish Football, wishes to reiterate its profound apology to those who have personal experience of sexual abuse in our national game.

Now that the final report has been published, we express our thanks to Martin Henry, the chair of the independent review, and his team, who for the past three years have dedicated themselves to this considerable and unprecedented undertaking.

They have produced a comprehensive review of non-recent sexual abuse in Scottish football, provided recommendations that the game is implementing at all levels to ensure a safer future for young footballers, and, crucially, have given survivors a voice that was previously denied to them.

The personal testimony provided by those survivors is a tribute to their courage and while the final report makes difficult reading it is only by learning lessons from the past that we can we truly commit to the highest standards of wellbeing and protection for young people involved in Scottish football.

Today is a day for reflecting on an incomprehensible period in Scottish football's history, and for ensuring the collective voice of the survivors is heard.

Ian Maxwell, Scottish FA Chief Executive: "As Chief Executive of the Scottish FA I am deeply upset by the contents of the final report into sexual abuse in Scottish football and, in

particular, by the deeply personal, traumatic experiences endured by young players who were abused by people in whom they and their families placed their trust.

“I reiterate my sincerest apology on behalf of Scottish football to all who have experienced abuse in our national game.

“The report also recognises the progress that the Scottish FA and its members have made to achieve the highest standards of wellbeing and protection for children and young people to play our national sport safely today.

“Since the board issued a directive in 2016 and we can report that 80% of the original recommendations are either completed or in progress. The work is ongoing, overseen by the Independent Wellbeing and Protection Advisory Board and implemented through our Wellbeing and Protection department: themselves evidence of our commitment to the review and its recommendations.

“As the report also states, football provides a tremendous outlet for young people in Scotland and it is the responsibility of everyone involved in Scottish football to protect and cultivate that for future generations.”

The final report and appendices can be viewed here [insert link] and status update on our recommendations are below.

If you would like to speak to someone about your own experiences then you can contact:
Police Scotland on 101
NSPCC Helpline for people abused in football: 0800 023 2642
Scottish FA – childrenswellbeing@scottishfa.co.uk

Further information on support services can be found here [insert link to survivors page].

From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Independent Review of Sexual Abuse in Scottish Football
Date: 09 February 2021 09:18:24
Attachments: [redacted]

Sensitivity: Confidential

Morning [redacted],

Please find attached an advance copy of the final report of the Independent Review of Sexual Abuse in Scottish Football. I am sharing this with you in confidence to help you to prepare for publication of the report. The report and its contents are strictly embargoed until 12 noon on Thursday 11 February when it will be published on the Scottish FA website.

Once you have had the opportunity to look at the report if there is anything you would like to discuss then please give me a call.

Thanks

[redacted].

[redacted]
Head of Wellbeing and Protection
The Scottish FA

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