

From: [REDACTED] (Active Scotland)
Sent: 10 March 2021 19:11
To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@celticfc.co.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]@celticfc.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Ministers

Hi Peter

Happy to clarify – and also happy to acknowledge the strong record you have of working constructively with us on a number of issues, particularly on safety and security issues.

The Scottish Government does not in any way associate the scenes at the weekend with Celtic or your supporters and we don't intend to use Friday's meeting to look back.

Ministers are instead keen to ensure forthcoming high-profile fixtures this season – including Celtic v Rangers on 21 March – are run as smoothly as possible and to consider if there is any support we can offer. Given the ongoing pandemic, mass gatherings pose an acute public health risk and Ministers want to support efforts by all partners to keep supporters and the wider community safe.

On that basis, I would perhaps envisage greater Scottish Government involvement in preparations for of a number of high-profile fixtures for the remainder of this season.

As the hosts of the game on 21 March – and with your experience of safely managing events – we would welcome your participation in the meeting on Friday to discuss preparations for that fixture, and I believe it would be beneficial to provide reassurance to Ministers that everything possible is being done to ensure the safety of supporters and the wider community.

Hope that helps. Please come back if you need anything else – and happy to discuss as always.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@celticfc.co.uk>
Sent: 10 March 2021 18:48
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Ministers

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email. Whilst, as you know, we have a track record of working closely with the

Scottish Government, Police Scotland and Glasgow City Council, I'd be grateful if you would clarify the purpose of the proposed meeting.

In your email, you refer to the scenes at the weekend. The scenes at the weekend had nothing to do with Celtic FC or our supporters. I am not clear, therefore, as to why we would be invited to a meeting with the Scottish Government, Police Scotland and Glasgow City Council in connection with the scenes at the weekend.

As a club we are mindful of the risks associated with public gatherings. We have been clear in our messaging to our supporters of the importance of staying at home in line with applicable guidance throughout the pandemic. The celebrations around our title triumph last summer and our Scottish Cup in December are two key examples of that, but we have communicated regularly around our fixtures and our supporters have responded very responsibly.

We are already working with Police Scotland in advance of the fixture on 21 March and a further meeting with the emergency services will take place next week. As part of our planning, we are working on security of Celtic Park and a comprehensive communications strategy in advance of the match. Against that background, we don't understand the need for a meeting.

Regards,

Peter



Peter Lawwell

Chief Executive

Celtic plc

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