

CW/01138/09/14

21 November 2014

FAO: Mr David Rose

Football Supporters' Federation  
1 Ashmore Terrace  
Stockton Road  
Sunderland,  
Tyne & Wear,  
SR2 7DE

Francesco Savino  
Case Leader

Direct line: 020 7981 3259  
Direct fax: 020 7783 4109

[francesco.savino@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:francesco.savino@ofcom.org.uk)

## BY EMAIL

Dear Mr Rose

### **Competition Act investigation into the joint selling arrangements for live audio-visual rights by The Football Association Premier League Limited ('PL'): invitation to comment**

On 18 November 2014, Ofcom opened an investigation under the Competition Act 1998 into the joint selling arrangements by PL for live audio-visual media rights for Premier League matches. Ofcom intends to engage with the Football Supporters Federation and various individual Supporters Clubs throughout the course of this investigation. We would be grateful for your views on the issues raised in this letter. We expect to follow up with you shortly with further invitations to comment on broader issues raised in this investigation.

One of the issues we will be examining is the number of Premier League matches for which live rights are sold. In the last auction held by PL for the seasons 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15, live rights were sold to 158 matches per season, out of a total of 380.

As you are aware, the Football Association prohibits the broadcasting of football matches on Saturday afternoons during the hours of 14.45 and 17.15 (known as the closed period). PL complies with this rule and does not sell rights for the live broadcast of Premier League matches played during the closed period. However, our analysis of the scheduling of Premier League fixtures during the 2013/14 season and the current season (up to 1 February 2015) has revealed that there were a total of 106 matches that were played outside of the closed period but which were not broadcast live. Annex 1 to this letter contains a list of these matches, showing the date, teams and time of kick-off.

Bearing in mind that these matches were moved out of the closed period for reasons other than television, we would welcome your comments on how members of the Football Supporters' Federation would have responded if the option of watching a live transmission of these matches had been available. In particular, we would welcome your comments on the following in relation to each of these matches:

- If a live transmission of the match had been available, to what extent do you consider that this is an option that your members would have chosen on match day?
- Are there any factors that you consider would have influenced their decision to attend the match, watch a live transmission or do neither of these?

Please send your response to me by Friday, 28 November 2014 to [francesco.savino@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:francesco.savino@ofcom.org.uk) or by post to Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 2HA.

If you have any questions about the matters raised in this letter, please send them to me by email or contact me by phone on 020 7981 3259.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'f. savino', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Francesco Savino