

# Home Secretary praises 'true' football fans and urges respect at games

The Home Secretary Priti Patel has visited Brentford's Gtech Community Stadium to see the valuable work that football clubs, the police and sport bodies are doing to prevent antisocial behaviour and increase fans' enjoyment of the game after disorder at matches last season.

The Home Office is working closely with the police and football bodies to ensure the matchday enjoyment of the majority of fans and families is not ruined by the selfishness of a few who invaded football pitches, threw flares, and abused players and fans at matches in England and Wales last season.

The Home Secretary met officials from the Premier League and Brentford Football Club, which came top of a recent Premier League survey for matchday fan experience, and saw the new safe standing areas within the Gtech Community Stadium for fans, toured the control room and spoke with the security team about the valuable work they do to ensure match days are positive experiences for spectators.

She also spoke with staff members who work on programmes such as Premier League Kicks, which has been working in local communities to inspire thousands of young people. Premier League Kicks started in 2006 – with Brentford one of 4 pilot clubs – and has a long history of using the power of football and the value of sports participation to help youngsters in some of the country's most high-need areas.

The Home Secretary urged football fans across England and Wales to respect others' enjoyment of the game, and the law, or risk receiving a football banning order (FBO) preventing them from attending home and away matches, including potentially the World Cup in Qatar, if they attack or abuse other fans, staff, players or managers.

Home Secretary, Priti Patel, said:

There is no place for the ugly scenes we saw at some matches in England and Wales last season and it is good to see the positive work being done by clubs like Brentford to ensure our stadia are safe places for families and children to enjoy the beautiful game.

I am determined not to let a small minority ruin matches for true fans as the football season gets under way and we are working closely with the police and the football authorities to tackle antisocial and criminal behaviour.

I wholeheartedly support the extra measures all football bodies and clubs are bringing to keep fans safe and would encourage police and the courts to make full use of Football Banning Order legislation

which we have recently extended to online abuse and will be shortly bringing in to root out class A drugs at matches.

FBOs are a preventative behavioural order designed to prevent violence, disorder and harm and are imposed by a court, following an application or on conviction for a football-related offence.

Nearly 1,400 troublemakers have already been targeted by FBOs and banned by the courts.

In the last 12 months the government has significantly expanded the scope of FBOs in order to crack down on disorder by:

- adding football-related online hate crime to the list of offences for which a FBO can be imposed on conviction so that those who are convicted of online racism and other hate crimes connected to football can be banned from stadia, in the same way that violent offenders are barred from grounds
- committing to add football-related class A drugs crimes to the list of offences for which a FBO can be imposed on conviction, sending a strong signal to those who use class A drugs in and around football matches that their behaviour will not be tolerated and that they will no longer be able to attend games

In addition, FBOs have recently been extended to the women's domestic game, showing that regardless of which games fans are attending, violence and hate will not be tolerated.

Recently the Football Association (FA), Premier League and English Football League (EFL) announced they were introducing new measures and stronger sanctions across the game to tackle the increased antisocial and criminal behaviours seen at football grounds last season and to underline the importance of a safe matchday environment. The football bodies are making it clear such acts are dangerous, illegal and have severe consequences.

From the start of season 2022 to 2023, all offenders will be reported by clubs to the police and prosecution could result in a permanent criminal record, which may affect their employment and education, and could result in a prison sentence. The FA will also be enforcing a tougher charging and sanctioning policy for clubs, which will reinforce these measures.

Furthermore, anyone who enters the pitch, and those carrying or using pyrotechnics or smoke bombs, will now receive an automatic club ban. These bans could also be extended to accompanying parents or guardians of children who take part in these activities.

Premier League Chief Executive, Richard Masters, said:

Everyone should feel safe and able to enjoy a football match. In coming together with clubs and partners across football, we are making clear the type of incidents we saw last season must stop. If

we don't take collective and sustained action, it may only be a matter of time before someone is seriously injured, or worse.

The new measures introduced at the start of this season are a strong response to a significant increase in fan behaviour issues, but we know it is the minority who have behaved unacceptably and unlawfully.

Premier League football should be a fantastic experience for everyone and we don't want matches to be marred by these sorts of events.

Culture Secretary, Nadine Dorries, said:

We are on the side of football fans and understand the passion and emotion that comes with supporting a team.

As the new season gets into full swing we want to remind people we will not tolerate antisocial behaviour and have strengthened the powers under our football banning order legislation to tackle drug use and hate crimes.

Together with the work being done by the football authorities, we are helping root out those who seek to disrupt match days so proper fans can enjoy a fantastic football experience.

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## **[OSHR Training Programme for Mexican Journalists 2022](#)**

World news story

Development programme in Mexico contributes to improved safety for journalists and human rights defenders.



UNESCO estimates that an average of 12 journalists have been killed each year over the past 5 years in Mexico. Reporters Without Borders and the Committee for the Protection of Journalists have classified Mexico as one of the most dangerous countries to practice investigative journalism, and according to the 2021 report from the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime, Mexico is the fourth most crime affected country in the world – the economic impact of violent crime is estimated at 24% of GDP.

To tackle this important issue, the British Embassy in Mexico, through its Open Societies and Human Rights programme, collaborated with UNESCO and Mexico's National Institute for Public Information in the implementation of a project to develop protection plans that identify and reduce the threats received by journalists and human rights defenders by providing trainings for journalists and promoting free speech in Mexico.

The programme consisted of five virtual courses delivered by UNESCO in April 2022. These courses lasted 25 hours and were designed to strengthen the capacity of journalists in important areas such as: media and information literacy, investigative journalism, data journalism, human rights, and security and risk management.

202 journalists completed the courses successfully – including 9 journalists from countries such as Peru, Argentina, El Salvador, Ecuador and Honduras – who are now equipped with important tools to practice journalism by taking a progressive and inclusive approach, and understand how to access protection mechanisms that will allow them to exercise their profession more safely.

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## [P&O Ferries: update from the Insolvency Service \(19 August 2022\)](#)

Press release

The Insolvency Service has provided an update following its urgent enquiries into the circumstances surrounding the redundancies made by P&O Ferries on 17 March 2022.



An Insolvency Service spokesperson said:

“After a full and robust criminal investigation into the circumstances surrounding the employees who were made redundant by P&O Ferries, we have concluded that we will not commence criminal proceedings.”

- The Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy asked the Insolvency Service to investigate whether any offences had been committed in relation to P&O Ferries’ dismissal of 786 employees on 17 March 2022.
- The offence alleged was failure to notify in accordance with section 193 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 contrary to section 194(1) of that Act.
- The Insolvency Service conducted a criminal investigation, which was reviewed by an independent senior prosecution lawyer in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors, who concluded there was no realistic prospect of a conviction.
- The civil investigation by the Insolvency Service is ongoing and we cannot comment further at this time.

For media enquiries, contact: 07966 442994

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## [UK monkeypox case numbers show overall decline](#)

As of 15 August, there are 3,195 confirmed and highly probable cases of monkeypox in the UK. Whilst the decline is fastest in London, new cases continue to be identified in all regions at present.

Out of 3,025 confirmed cases in England, 2,989 were men (99%) and 36 were women. The median age of cases in the UK is 36. Based on the available data, the virus continues to be transmitted primarily in interconnected sexual networks of gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) and there is no robust evidence of sustained transmission outside these networks. Some new cases which may be linked to travel continue to be identified.

As of 17 August 2022, a total of 33,199 administered doses of vaccine have been recorded, of which 29,803 have been administered as pre-exposure vaccination, primarily to GBMSM. A further 1,767 doses have been given to healthcare workers managing monkeypox cases and 1,629 doses have been given to close contacts of cases.

Dr Meera Chand, Director of Clinical and Emerging Infections, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said:

Whilst there are fewer new cases being identified, we are detecting cases in all regions of England and the global outbreak continues. We ask that everyone checks themselves for monkeypox symptoms, including rashes and blisters, particularly if you have had new sexual partners recently – in the UK or abroad.

If you are eligible for a vaccine, please wait to be called forward by the NHS and you will receive one as soon as supply is available in your area. We are working with the manufacturer to expedite delivery as quickly as possible.

If you are concerned that you may have monkeypox symptoms, take a break from events, meeting with friends or having sexual contact. Instead, stay at home and contact 111 or your local sexual health service for advice.

UKHSA will continue to publish regular technical briefings as the response to the outbreak continues.

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## [Nuclear protocols](#)

News story

GAD has supported the government to help ratify the 2004 Protocols which increase the scope of operator liabilities in the area of nuclear energy.



Actuaries have supported the government to help enable the [ratification of the 2004 Protocols](#). This project, from the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) related to third-party liabilities in the field of nuclear energy.

GAD worked with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on the 2004 Protocols, that came into force in January 2022. These build on the '[Paris Convention](#)' and the '[Brussels Convention](#)'.

## **The challenge**

The 2004 Protocols increase the scope of operator liability in terms of the:

- financial limits of compensation
- heads of damage
- geography
- period during which personal injury claims can be made

For power plants and similar nuclear sites, operators' liability levels have increased. These have risen from £140 million to €700 million, increasing by €100 million per year to a maximum of €1.2 billion.

The commercial market has been able to cover most of the extension of cover. However, there is currently insufficient commercial capacity to cover all the increased personal injury liabilities for the 10-to-30-year period. GAD supported BEIS in developing temporary measures to address this gap in the market.

## **Analysis and data**

GAD advised BEIS on how its modelling could be adapted to allow for a risk-sharing arrangement between industry and government. GAD undertook the analysis and BEIS gathered data to feed into GAD's modelling.

As part of this project, the Contingent Liability Central Capability used loss estimates provided by GAD to advise BEIS and HM Treasury. This included advice on practical ways of dealing with the contingent liabilities, including fair allocation of risk and reward between private sector insurers and the government.

## **Looking forward**

GAD is supporting an ongoing review of the current approach with a view of creating a long-term market solution that does not require government intervention.

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