

NUST RESPOND TO BADENOCH'S COMMENTS REGARDING INDEPENDENT FOOTBALL REGULATOR



12 February 2025

NUST has always been a loud and proud supporter of the Football Governance Bill, and in 2024 we called for our local North East MPs from all parties to support this bill in parliament.

It is very concerning to see the comments of Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch, that call the proposed football regulator a '*waste of money*' and claiming she has '*always said*' she does not back the bill. We support the FSA's statement on Badenoch's U-Turn and we would encourage her to speak to the FSA, supporter groups like NUST, or any of the 72 EFL clubs who support the regulator.

In recent years, the Premier League has been embroiled in multiple disputes, costing clubs and the league millions in legal fees - funds that could have been better spent on improving the game for supporters and communities. A properly implemented football regulator could provide oversight, reduce the need for costly litigation, and ensure greater transparency and fairness for all.

In 2025 it is rare to find support from all sides in politics. We believed that the Conservative party proposal of the Football Governance Bill that is supported by the now Labour Government was a moment of unity to support football fans and the 'beautiful game'. It is so disappointing to see the Conservative Party leader now turning her back on fans, football clubs, and their local communities to seemingly appease a few of the so-called 'big' clubs and score a few political points.

Football fans deserve a system that prioritises the long-term sustainability of the game over political expediency. We urge Ms Badenoch to reconsider her stance and commit to supporting the delivery of an independent regulator that football so desperately needs.

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