



10 July 2025

Clare Adamson MSP  
Convener  
Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Dear Ms Adamson

### **Sporting Events of National Interest – Listed Events Regime**

Thank you for your letter dated 27 June 2025 regarding the potential expansion of the Listed Events regime to include Scotland Men's A World Cup and European Championship qualifying matches.

The Scottish FA fully supports the principle of making our national teams as accessible as possible to supporters across the country, and we welcome the recent agreement between BBC Scotland and UEFA, which will see men's international matches broadcast free-to-air in the lead-up to the next World Cup. This is a positive step for the visibility of our national teams. However, any proposal to include qualifying matches under Group A of the Listed Events regime must be considered carefully given the significant commercial implications for Scottish football.

The revenue received from sale of television rights for men's international qualifying matches, including World Cup and Euro Qualifiers, as well as Nations League matches, has enabled the Scottish FA to benefit from a stable and substantial revenue stream since the rights were centralised by UEFA.

These rights are the association's single biggest revenue stream and form a significant element of our total income, which allows us to invest into the game at every level.

The Scottish Football Association Limited / Hampden Park / Glasgow/ G42 9AY  
Phone +44 (0) 141 616 6000 / Fax: +44 (0) 141 616 6001 / E-mail: [info@scottishfa.co.uk](mailto:info@scottishfa.co.uk)  
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These revenues directly support:

- Grassroots football – including but not limited to: coach education & development, club development, and our community programmes.
- Girls' and Women's - enabling record growth in participation and performance pathways.
- Facility Development - ensuring that we improve the quantity and quality of football and community facilities across the country via our Pitching In campaign.
- National teams - enhancing support structures for both men's and women's squads, from youth to senior level.

Adding all men's A qualifying matches to the Listed Events list would significantly reduce commercial competition and value, reducing broadcast revenue from UEFA for the sale of rights to FTA broadcasters only.

If not subsidised by other means, it would have the inevitable consequence of reduction in participation and development investment across Scotland. This cannot be the Scottish Government's intention.

We are committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure that football remains accessible while also safeguarding the financial sustainability of the game in Scotland. We would welcome feedback from the Committee on how these objectives can be balanced effectively.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'IM', written in a cursive style.

Ian Maxwell  
Chief Executive