



11 May 2023

Ms Clare Haughey MSP  
Convener, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
EDINBURGH  
EH99 1SP

Dear Ms Haughey

Thank you for your letter dated 10 May 2023 regarding the Scottish Cup Final kick-off time.

The Scottish Cup is the oldest knockout trophy in world football and one that deserves to reach as wide an audience as possible, both in terms of capacity attendance at Hampden Park and television viewers nationally and internationally.

To that end, we had to consider a number of factors when the FA Cup was moved from a later kick-off to 3pm.

Confirming a 'traditional' kick-off of 3pm would result in a scheduling conflict between the Scottish Cup final, FA Cup Final and UEFA Women's Champions League Final.

BBC Scotland, who will broadcast the final along with Viaplay, confirmed that they would not be able to permit a BBC One UK-wide broadcast, which would greatly diminish the visibility of Scottish football's showpiece occasion.

During discussions with Inverness, it was clear an earlier kick-off of 12.15 would not be conducive to maximising their supporters' enjoyment of the day and would also present public transport issues. The club's preference was for a later kick-off.

A 5.30pm kick-off will ensure a sold-out stadium and prime Saturday evening television that affords the widest-possible television audience.

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In relation to public transport issues, we have been assured by the club that this is not the case: indeed Inverness have recently confirmed that arrangements have been made with bus providers to ensure all fans travelling from Inverness will be able to access return transport from Hampden Park: [Scottish Citylink and megabus Cup Final Initiative Announced](#) - ICTFC

I hope this addresses any concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Maxwell', written in a cursive style.

Ian Maxwell  
Chief Executive