



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

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16 August 2021

Iain Stewart MP  
House of Commons,  
London, SW1A 0AA

Our Ref:  
MC2021/15654/NB

Dear Iain,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 August, on behalf of your constituents regarding Football Index. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

The government is taking the situation regarding Football Index and the concerns of those affected by it very seriously. It is reported that many thousands of customers have been affected by the product's collapse, with some having lost very large sums, and we want to establish how this situation came about and what lessons we can learn from it.

The Secretary of State has appointed Malcolm Sheehan QC to lead an independent review into the regulation of BetIndex Limited, the operators of Football Index. He will provide an independent expert account of the actions taken by the Gambling Commission and other relevant regulatory bodies, and consider the lessons to be learnt for the future. He will have access to all the necessary information held by the government and regulatory bodies to conduct the review. Further detail on the review, including its scope, is set out in the terms of reference available [here](#).

The review is expected to provide a report for publication in the summer, and will include recommendations as needed across the full range of questions set out in the terms of reference. Its findings will form part of the evidence informing the government's ongoing review of the Gambling Act 2005, which was announced in December 2020.

Alongside this independent review, the Gambling Commission's regulatory investigation into BetIndex Limited is continuing, as well as the administration proceedings for BetIndex Limited. This independent review is entirely separate from those processes and will be done in such a way as to avoid prejudicing either of them.

While our independent review is looking primarily at the regulatory circumstances of the case, including the actions taken by regulators, it is important that former customers continue to have a voice.

Former customers can continue to provide information to DCMS about the Football Index case to inform the Gambling Act review, through our [call for evidence](#). Hundreds of individuals have already done so, and where relevant to the terms of reference for the independent review we will pass those to Malcolm Sheehan QC. The Gambling Commission will also continue to consider information it receives from individuals about the actions of Football Index where it pertains to its ongoing regulatory investigation into BetIndex's licence.



Thank you again for taking the time to write in on this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP  
**Minister of State for Media and Data**