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Arsenal Football Club  
Highbury House  
75 Drayton Park  
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N5 1BU

10 December 2013

Dear [REDACTED],

## **RE: ARSENAL V TOTTENHAM – FA CUP THIRD ROUND**

Further to our discussions, I write to confirm my views on the allocation for Tottenham fans for this match.

The Safety Team did a detailed evaluation of risks earlier in the year regarding issues posed by having supporters on the upper tier. [REDACTED] the points need to be considered for each occasion when use is an option. This identified significant risks with persistent standing and ability to steward and police potentially disorderly and violent behaviour on the upper tier.

The cup game against Chelsea proved this to be a correct assumption. Very few of the spectators on the upper tier sat and those who wanted to were unable to do so unless in the front rows of seats. The front two rows had been netted, as we did for previous cup games, but this was breached by spectators wanting to sit and get out of the crowd, or by others leading chanting and singing. The increased level of stewarding and policing had no impact on behaviour and attempts to throw missiles onto the Arsenal fans below were witnessed. Flares were let off in the lower tier and had this happened on the upper tier, this could have precipitated panic amongst the standing fans.

Taking each game on its merits, I would therefore not support the use of the upper tier for away fans for this game which I believe means restricting the allocation to 5,000. Arsenal v Tottenham games are always categorised as high risk and this match will be no different. It has the potential to be more significant as it's a cup game, and therefore we can only assume that standing and disorderly behaviour will be prevalent. Persistent standing is always a factor for visiting Tottenham supporters. No mitigation such as leaving rows vacant at the front addresses this so the alternative is to limit the allocation to the lower tier where the risks lessen.

I have attached the letter sent to Arsenal in March which sets out the reasons why we came to the need to risk assess the use of the upper tier for each game. I reinforced the need to review after the observations of the Chelsea match, especially given the recent advice of the SASG on persistent standing, and conclude that it would not be advisable to use it for this match. As we found from the review we did earlier in the year, this is in line with other grounds having a steep rake who undertake risk assessments of games before agreeing allocations and I understand from our SASG representative that Tottenham have taken similar decisions in relation to use of their upper tier.

[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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