

CSS.
cc/BG

Prime Minister (2)

cc Press Office
TF

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT



Very encouraging confirmation
that violence was down this season

27 May 1986

MMA 28/5

mf

Dear Mark

FOOTBALL HOOLIGANISM - ARRESTS AT FOOTBALL GROUNDS

You will recall that we provided briefing following the publication in the Sunday Times on 18 May of an article about the reduction in violence at football grounds in England and Wales.

We have now obtained figures for arrests at Football League matches at all Division 1 and 2 grounds for the 1984-85 and 1985-86 seasons. The attached table shows a reduction in arrests at Division 1 grounds of 46.5%, and at Division 2 grounds of 39.5%. The overall reduction for the two divisions was 44%. The figures are for league matches only, as this is the only basis for valid comparisons from one season to the next. The figures are slightly different from those given in the Sunday Times (which were restricted to Division 1 only).

Statistics of arrests do not of course tell the whole story, and final police figures will include attendances at matches and ejections from grounds. The Home Secretary considers however that, while further progress still needs to be made, the figures are encouraging.

We intend to announce this in an arranged Parliamentary Question next week. The police are content for the total figures to be announced, but would prefer the figures for individual clubs not to be given publicly at this stage. Football clubs, and the police, are not keen on a "league table of misconduct" approach, and the arrest figures are but one aspect of the total picture.

I am copying this to Robin Young and Phil Dykins at DOE, Richard Allan at Transport and Andy Rinning at the Scottish Office.

Yours ever
W R Fittall

W R FITTALL

Mark Addison, Esq

ANNEX A

FIGURES OF ARRESTS AT FOOTBALL LEAGUE MATCHES IN 1984-85 and 1985-86
(DIVISIONS 1 AND 2 ONLY)

<u>Division 1</u>	<u>84/85</u>	<u>85/86</u>	
Arsenal	163	69	
Aston Villa	376	129	
Birmingham City	264	58	
Chelsea	299	242	
Coventry City	294	82	
Everton	80	30	
Ipswich	80	26	
Leicester City	241	220	
Liverpool	151	39	
Luton Town	120	55	
Manchester City	33	19	
Manchester United	124	41	
Newcastle United	236	119	
Nottingham Forest	78	68	
Oxford	96	90	
QPR	181	104	
Sheffield Wednesday	79	69	
Southampton	101	209	
Tottenham Hotspur	187	139	
Watford	32	24	
West Bromwich Albion	221	84	
West Ham United	136	89	
	<u>3,752</u>	<u>2,005</u>	- 46.6%

Division 284/8585/86

Barnsley	93	38	
Blackburn Rovers	66	48	
Bradford City	87	76	
Brighton	56	22	
Carlisle	23	13	
Charlton Athletic	62	20	
Crystal Palace	98	40	
Fulham	81	61	
Grimsby Town	80	71	
Huddersfield	151	50	
Hull City	30	40	
Leeds United	113	133	
Middlesbrough	58	61	
Millwall	51	77	
Norwich City	62	34	
Oldham Athletic	25	27	
Portsmouth	74	29	
Sheffield United	95	42	
Shrewsbury	50	48	
Stoke City	140	35	
Sunderland	147	113	
Wimbledon	123	8	
	<u>1,765</u>	<u>1,086</u>	- 39.5%
Total (Divs 1 & 2)	5,517	3,091	- 44%

Notes

1. These figures apply to arrests at Football League matches only (ie not Cup, Friendly or other games).
2. They are in respect of arrests inside and outside the grounds. They may not include arrests away from the ground where it was not clear that alleged offences were "football related".

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Home Affairs



FOOTBALL HOLOGANISM

PT 5

76	87		
42			
18			
30	0		
11	28		
61	81		
71	81		
1	111		
50	50		
133	113		
61	20		
77	41		
34	43		
17	22		
30	30		
42	25		
107	107		
30	1		
117	117		
8	123		
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1,180	1,700		
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3,021	5,214		
89.78			
100			
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3,021	5,214		
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3,021	5,214		

Notes:

1. These figures are in respect of offences committed in the period 1.1.70 to 31.12.70. They do not include offences committed in other periods.

2. The figures in respect of offences committed in the period 1.1.70 to 31.12.70 are not included in the total of 5,214 as they were not included in the original figures.