

[REDACTED]
Sent: Wed Jul 06 09:56:24 BST 2022

[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Emiliano Raul Sala (ref: 171881)

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 28 June 2022.

In order to provide a fuller response for HM Senior Coroner, we have contacted the other football stakeholders in the domestic game to discern what actions have been taken in advance of the PFNCC meeting scheduled for September 2022 at which this matter will be discussed (having been raised as an agenda item by the PFA). For the avoidance of doubt, the PFA has not delayed in placing this item on the agenda - September is the next meeting of this body where all stakeholders are in attendance.

Notwithstanding this, from our investigations we have learned that:

- Premier League (PL): The PL discussed this issue most recently at its AGM in June 2022 and sent a communication to all Premier League clubs following this.
- English Football League (EFL): The EFL has sent a communication to all English Football League clubs. A copy of the CAA's guidance also remains available to clubs on the EFL's portal. We are advised that the EFL will re-issue a link to this guidance in advance of each transfer window.
- Football Association (FA): The FA issued the CAA's guidance to the Premier League and EFL for dissemination to the clubs. The FA has also sent the CAA guidance directly to its Registered Intermediaries.

We have written to our current members this week and put on our website, to raise awareness on the issue of unlicensed aircraft, and attached the guidance issued by the CAA in that messaging (which was provided to us by the EFL). We will ensure that this message is re-sent in advance of each transfer window, to include any updated CAA guidance that is issued from time to time. To note, we have searched relevant email boxes at the PFA and as far as we are aware, we did not receive anything direct from the CAA in September 2019.

We will also add this issue as an agenda item for the next relevant FIFPRO meeting (FIFPRO is the worldwide representative organisation of professional footballers), so that trade unions from other associations can raise in their respective countries.

The PFA was shocked and deeply saddened by the death of Emiliano Sala and would not want to see this tragedy repeated. However, as the players' trade union, there is a limit to what we can do as a body to effect change. Ultimately it is very rarely individual players who make the travel arrangements - this is done by the clubs and/or the players' intermediaries. In the case of international transfers, where a player is joining a domestic club from abroad, the player will most likely not yet be a member of the PFA and therefore will be outside of our network until he/she has signed for the club and joined the union (as was the case with Emiliano Sala). To the extent that the football industry introduces any specific rules or regulations on this issue, this will be at the behest of the leagues and/or governing bodies (including FIFA and UEFA, amongst others, due to the international dimension of this particular issue).

We hope this information assists and we are happy to clarify any details, should that be necessary.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Assistant Chief Executive
Professional Footballers' Association