



RFU

Rugby Football Union
Rugby House, Twickenham Stadium
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englandrugby.com

TO ALL PREMIERSHIP CLUBS

20 June 2022

Dear Chief Executive,

CORONER REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATH – CHARTERING COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS

I am writing following the Inquest into the death of professional footballer Emiliano Sala on 21 January 2019, which has been undertaken by Rachael Griffin, Senior Coroner for the Coroner Area of Dorset (the Inquest). Mr Sala was found to have died as a result of injuries caused by a high energy aircraft crash whilst flying between Nantes to Cardiff.

As a result of the Inquest, the RFU, together with other sporting bodies, has been served with a report by the Coroner known as a Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths (the PFD Report), a copy of which is enclosed.

The Coroner concluded that the illegal provision of flights for reward on private aircraft, or flown by pilots without an air operators' certificate was particularly prevalent in the sport and music industries and therefore requires those to whom she sent the PFD Report to pass this to relevant stakeholders.

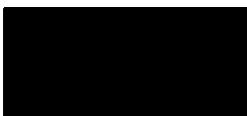
This was discussed at the Professional Game Board, and although clearly flights such as these are likely to be far more prevalent in other sports such as football, there may be some relevance to professional rugby clubs in England.

The purpose of this letter is therefore to request that you review the PFD report so that you are aware of the risks associated with flights such as these and to ensure, in the event commercial flights are chartered by Clubs (for away games or otherwise), that due consideration is given to ensuring that such flights are legal and have in place all required authorisations, certifications and permissions.

We would be grateful if you would pass this letter and its enclosure to the attention of all employees within your Club who may be involved in procuring or organising commercial flights for Club operations.

If you had any queries or concerns in relation to the PFD Report, or regarding using commercial charter flights generally, we would suggest that a first port of call is the Civil Aviation Authority.

Yours faithfully



**Director of Legal and Governance
Rugby Football Union**