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### **Independent Football Regulator:**

Everton Football Club recently received a ten-point deduction from the Premier League for incurring financial losses over the permitted threshold. I am aware that many fans have shared their concerns regarding the Premier League's choice to impose a deduction and have called for an independent regulator to ensure fair governance of the game.

I have long believed that football governance in broken in England. I support the introduction of a statutory, independent regulator to protect clubs for communities and fans. This is a once-in-a-generation chance to reset football and set it on a sustainable path for decades to come.

The *Fan-Led Review of Football Governance*, published in November 2021, made ten key recommendations. Alongside a new approach to corporate governance and a board for supporters, it recommended the introduction of a regulator with oversight of finances.

I am deeply concerned by the financial sustainability of the game. Mismanagement by owners, gambling everything for a spot in the Premier League without safeguards in place, has resulted in clubs on the brink of collapse. Despite bigger revenues than ever coming into football, the financial sustainability of the football pyramid has never been more at risk. We urgently need to bring in new laws to stop any more clubs going bust or being used as a plaything for the wealthy.

We must also give fans a greater say in the way their clubs are run. Too often, fans are locked out of discussions, and deals which affect the whole community are done entirely behind closed doors. We need to re-balance the relationship between fans and clubs, and between the biggest names in the Premier League and the smaller clubs lower down the leagues.

As constituents may be aware, a Football Governance Bill was promised in the King's Speech 2023. Disappointingly, this is yet to be presented to Parliament.

Football clubs are at the heart of communities. Please be assured that I will continue to press for long overdue action on this important issue.

**Marie Rimmer CBE, MP**

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