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16 March 2018

Mr Martin Glenn  
Chief Executive  
The Football Association  
Wembley Stadium  
PO Box 1966  
London  
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Dear Mr Glenn

In 2015 we wrote to the FA to express our concerns about the 2018 World Cup being staged in Russia.

Earlier this week we urged the UK Government to take decisive action against the government and supporters of Vladimir Putin in the aftermath of the widely publicised attack in Salisbury two weeks ago.

Russia continues to support war in Eastern Ukraine and it continues to represses the rights of Crimean Tatars in its illegal occupation of Crimea, manipulates the political process with fake news and cyber warfare, supports the massacre of innocent civilians in Syria, abuses human rights and is responsible for the deaths, including of British citizens, from the downing of flight MH17.

We believe that sport cannot remain indifferent to such acts of state aggression and therefore call on you to urgently revisit the question of participation of FA representatives and the National team at this year's World Cup in Russia.

The argument that sport has nothing to do with politics is false. The Russian government does not make this distinction and will use all official and team participation to promote its own narrative and political position, which is increasingly threatening European security and democratic structures.

This applies equally to state-controlled Russian media outlets, including RT and Sputnik, which exist to promote Russian propaganda and distortions. We were particularly saddened that Jose Mourinho has agreed to be a pundit for RT for a sizeable fee, which simply brings English football into disrepute. The FA should take a lead and refuse all further invitations to appear on RT and other Russian media channels.

Yours sincerely

  
Petro Rewko  
Chair

  
Fedir Kurlak  
CEO