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Sharon Hodgson MP
House of Commons
London
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Dear Sharon

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 May on behalf of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Ticket Abuse, regarding secondary ticket sales for sporting events.

I want to state at the outset that I share your desire to crackdown on abuses in the ticketing market. Whilst I believe there is a role for a responsible secondary ticketing market for fans, genuinely unable to attend events, to sell on tickets, where terms and conditions allow them to do so, I would expect all those involved in the secondary ticketing market (both sellers and platforms) to comply with the law in this area. Recent successes in enforcement activity are clearly bearing fruit, although I recognise that this is still on-going in relation to one high-profile secondary ticketing platform, with the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) preparing to take legal action to find the platform in contempt. It is important that we allow the CMA sufficient time to carry out their work thoroughly, to maximise the chance of a successful outcome.

However, to carry out their work effectively, enforcement agencies have to rely on evidence presented to them by event organisers and others. Where there are instances of tickets being put up for re-sale on secondary ticketing platforms in breach of the law, these should be reported to the relevant enforcement authorities, and I trust that the sporting bodies who attending the APPG meeting in May, and who have supplied the evidence in your letter, have already done so.

Finally, I agree with your view that consumer education is key here. I am pleased that we were able to support the current campaign by Action Fraud and the Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (STAR) to raise awareness of ticket fraud, particularly in relation to young people looking to buy tickets online. I hope this is something that all event organisers can sign up to in order to spread the message as widely as possible to fans.

Best wishes
Jeremy

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