



Ian Maxwell
CEO
The Scottish Football Association Ltd
Hampden Park
Glasgow
G42 9AY

Sent via email

08 May 2023

Dear Mr Maxwell,

Re: ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the decision to change the kick-off time of the Scottish Cup final from 3pm to 5:30pm. It has been suggested that this decision was made to avoid a clash with the FA Cup final in England, which, if true, is wholly unacceptable and sends the wrong message about the importance of the Scottish Cup final to fans in Scotland.

Furthermore, this change in kick-off time creates a major inconvenience for supporters travelling from the Highlands. As you are aware, Inverness Caledonian Thistle is playing Celtic in the final, and there are no trains or buses available for fans from Inverness to catch to travel home after the game if it is played this late. This lack of adequate transport arrangements not only inconveniences fans but also presents a safety risk for supporters who may have to resort to other means of transportation.

The Scottish Cup final is the crown jewel of the Scottish football calendar, and a 3pm kick-off time has long been the traditional time for this event. Changing this tradition for the sake of avoiding a clash with the FA Cup final in England is unacceptable, and I would urge you to reconsider the kick-off time to reflect the stature of the game more accurately.

If the kick-off time must remain at 5:30pm, I would like to request that adequate transport arrangements be made for supporters. This could include, for example, liaising with Scotrail to enable extra trains from Glasgow direct to Inverness that would be specifically for fans and take into consideration the possibility of the game going to extra time or penalties and also allowing for potential celebrations on the pitch.

As the governing body of Scottish football, you have a responsibility to ensure that fans can travel to and from games easily and safely. To put either of these in jeopardy to prevent clashes with any game taking place in another nation is grossly misjudged, to say the least.

I hope you will take these concerns seriously and take appropriate action to ensure that the Scottish Cup final is given the respect it deserves.

Kind Regards,

Drew

Drew Hendry MP

Member of Parliament for
Inverness, Nairn,
Badenoch & Strathspey

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Working to deliver the best outcomes for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey communities.

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