

Emilio Garcia
Chief Legal and Compliance Officer
FIFA

Dear Mr Garcia,

Thank you for your correspondence of October 31 in response to our letter of October 7. We appreciate Fifa's engagement with FairSquare Project on our Report 'Substitute', and write to address the various matters you have raised.

Opportunity to comment prior to publication

As you have acknowledged, we contacted FIFA prior to publication of the Report, to seek FIFA's comment on the Report's key findings. We do consider that, given the resources available to FIFA, a two week period was appropriate to request comment, and is in accordance with accepted standards of responsible research and journalism. It is regrettable that no attempt was made to contact us within the two week period and raise any points you wished to about the timing of your response. We also note that FIFA has been able to provide these preliminary responses within 48 hours of publication of the Report.

Openness to receiving and publishing FIFA's response

Nevertheless, we wish to reiterate that we will be happy to publish and disseminate your response, and any further information you can provide that adds critical context to our findings.

Substantive issues in your October 31 correspondence

Your letter of October 31 addresses a number of issues discussed in our Report, including the following:

- a. The "effective sacking" of Mr Miguel Maduro and the election of a new Chairman of the Governance, Audit and Compliance Committee;
- b. The proposed increment in the number of FIFA's standing committees from 7 to 35;
- c. Discussion of the FIFA President's excessive "executive powers" in the context of decision making by FIFA;
- d. Concerns with FIFA's governance failings, which have impacted its ability to prevent abuse and discrimination against women and girls;
- e. Our views on the organisation's structural unsuitability to lead the emergent women's game.

- f. Concerns about the World Cup bidding process that is likely to enable Saudi Arabia to host the men's 2034 World Cup
- g. Concerns about the failings in FIFA's role in relation to protecting human rights.

We welcome your points made in relation to these matters. You will also appreciate that these issues are (a) abundantly matters of legitimate public interest and concern, and (b) in the context of our report, represent our honest opinions on the issues raised. Each and every one of the matters set out above are issues that should be matters of public debate, which should be encouraged. Our Report is appropriately contextualised and written with sufficient care to enable the reader to understand the factual context of the matters under discussion, and form their own opinions on these matters.

In the circumstances, it is regrettable that your correspondence contains a veiled legal threat, which appears to be designed to stifle legitimate debate on these important matters of public interest. We trust that you will not make further legal threats, and you will let us know whether you wish to make any further points in response to the Report. Please let us know what additional information you intend to provide us with, and when we might receive it.

For the avoidance of doubt, we would be happy to consider any information that reaches us by 20 November and consider (entirely as a matter of our editorial discretion) to what extent such information impacts the findings of our Report and how we may wish to update it.

Suffice to say that FairSquare is committed to providing accurate, full and informative reports, and would welcome the opportunity to reflect FIFA's stance on the matters the Report discusses. Please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence and confirm when we might expect a further substantive response. Please note that if we do not receive any further response from you by the proposed date, we will assume you have no further comment to make and, subject to consideration of your October 31 letter and any updates to the Report we choose to make, treat the matter as closed.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas McGeehan

