



LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

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James MacDougall
Head of Public Affairs
The Football Association,
Wembley Stadium,
PO Box 1966,
London,
SW1P 9EQ.

Friday 31st March 2017

Dear Mr MacDougall,

Re; Leyton Orient Football Club

Thank you very much for your letter dated 27th March in response to my letter regarding the future of our local football club, Leyton Orient.

I appreciate that Leyton Orient must adhere to the rules of the EFL, and as such I will be writing to them to express my growing concern about the situation at the club as well.

You refer to the recent HMRC hearing which ruled that the club's owner has until the 12th June to pay the debts or sell the club. Whilst this decision gives the club some breathing space in terms of its immediate survival, it is essentially a stay of execution. I can tell you that the situation on the ground is extremely grave indeed.

There are reports in today's London Evening Standard which claim that the club has not been able to pay some of its staff. This is now affecting the lives of people who rely on the club to make a living, and as the governing body of football in England I feel this is something that the FA must now take seriously, particular with regards to the actions of the owner at the club.

I would like to know how the FA plans to deal with owners of football clubs who behave in what I can only describe as a reckless manner, and who threaten the very existence of some of the oldest sporting institutions in the country.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Chris Robbins

Leader of Waltham Forest Council