

UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill

Follow up information from the Scottish Government on the question regarding UEFA and ticketing

The approach we have taken to defining ticket touting is to be as comprehensive as possible, then set out specific exceptions, with the aim of preventing any loopholes arising.

In terms of the definition of touting, the bill sets out:

(2) A person touts a Championship ticket if the person does any act falling within subsection (3)—

(a) in relation to the sale, or proposed sale, of a Championship ticket for an amount exceeding the ticket's face value, or

(b) with a view to making a profit.

And the most relevant part of subsection (3) here is: (a) selling a Championship ticket.

As far as the Bill is concerned, selling a Championship ticket at profit falls within the description of ticket touting.

UEFA invest almost all of their revenue back into football, but they do make a profit from ticket sales. Which is why they have got an exemption in Section 2(4).

Therefore, UEFA need to be exempted from the offence to sell tickets in the first place, otherwise no match tickets could be sold legally in Scotland.

We are engaging with UEFA as to whether it would nominate other organisations to sell tickets on its behalf – that is what the exemption at 2(4)(b) is intended to provide for. The exemption does not automatically exempt individual UEFA officials from the toutting offence and is not about UEFA granting approval for any individual UEFA officials, or any other officials to tout tickets.

The evidence UEFA provided to the Committee confirms that their view is that that the wording in the Bill is not there to allow UEFA to tout tickets and also indicates they might authorise third parties to sell tickets.