

Date: 24th January 2020
Our ref:
Your ref:



Mr Abdallah Lemsagam
Chairman
Oldham Athletic (2004) AFC Limited
Boundary Park
Furtherwood Road
Oldham
OL1 2PB

People & Place Directorate
Public Protection
Sir Robert Peacock House
Vulcan Street
Oldham, OL1 4LA
Tel: 0161 770 4141
Email: environmentalhealth@oldham.gov.uk

Dear Abdallah Lemsagam,

Re: Safety at Sports Ground Act 1975 – North Stand

Further to the Emergency Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting held on the 22nd January 2020 as a result of the 'During Performance Inspection' that took place on Saturday 18th January 2020 before and during the game against Carlisle United.

I am formally writing to you as chair of SAG to inform you of the advice from SAG and the subsequent decision of the local authority.

Due to observations during the inspection it was apparent that there was a serious breakdown in safety management in a part of the stadium known as the North Stand.

Officers who carried out the inspection noted the following:-

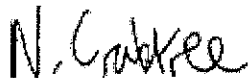
- Damaged and defective fire doors resulting in a failure of passive fire protection measures;
- Fire escape routes were obstructed and therefore not readily available;
- Final exit doors from the North stand escape route were locked and not easily operable in case of emergency;
- Lack of effective fire safety management procedures in the North stand;
- A failure to prevent unauthorised access to the North stand and its facilities during the event;
- A lack of a fully operational CCTV system in all publicly accessible areas of the North stand that is relayed in real time back to match day control during the event;
- A lack of an effective method of recording all members of the public who enter the North Stand during the match day event and therefore under the control of the safety officer;

As you are no doubt aware, the local authority has the power under the Safety at Sports Ground Act 1975 and subsequent guidance that supports the Act, to vary the factors used to set the capacity of the stadium at any time.

As a result of the above findings the members of SAG have concluded that, until you can demonstrate compliance with the above, the safety factor (S factor) for the North stand is to be reduced to zero.

The consequence of this is that no spectators should be admitted to any part of the North stand during a match day event.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Crabtree". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Neil Crabtree MCIEH
Chair of the Safety Advisory Group
Head of Service – Public Protection
neil.crabtree@oldham.gov.uk