

CAROLYN THOMAS

NORTH WALES | GOGLEDD CYMRU



Dawn Bowden
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport
Welsh Government
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@CarolynThomasMS



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Tuesday 11th January 2022

Dear Dawn Bowden MS,

Re: Coronavirus Regulation Enforcement, Chester Football Club

I am writing to you as Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport in relation to the Welsh Government's position on the continuation of spectator matches at Chester Football Club.

Chester Football Club is a fan-owned, community club with many supporters across North Wales. They do not have a benefactor or a rich owner; they are funded entirely by their own fans. Gate receipts, therefore, are the club's main source of income. Without those gate receipts, the very existence of the football club will be under threat.

Chester fans have already experienced this trauma when the current club's predecessor, Chester City Football Club, was liquidated in 2010 because of years of gross mismanagement under private ownership. Their owner at the time became the first person to ever fail the Football Association's 'fit and proper person' test because of his involvement with VAT carousel fraud.

Following this, the fans came together to form City Fans United – a supporter's group which put in untold hours to rebuild their football club from the ashes. Under fan-ownership, whereby any fan can become an owner from as little as £12 a year, the club won three back-to-back titles.

Chester Football Club is a model for fan ownership which should be promoted and supported by socialists who recognise the threat posed to the 'beautiful game' by private ownership.

I would urge you to work with Chester Football Club, Flintshire County Council, Chester and Cheshire West Council, North Wales Police and Cheshire Police to ensure that Chester FC do not become an unlucky victim of a geographical anomaly. If Chester are required to play their games behind closed doors, please could you reassure me that they will receive adequate funding to be able to continue to operate?

Yours Sincerely,

Carolyn Thomas
Member of the Senedd for North Wales