

Governance and accountability at the Football Foundation

The Football Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered with the Charity Commission (charity number 1079309) and Companies House (company number 3876305). The Football Foundation (Foundation) is governed by a Board of Trustees, who are ultimately responsible for governance and strategic direction of the Foundation and for directing how the charity is managed and run.

Articles of Association

The Football Foundation's Articles of Association are part of our governing documents and are the agreed written rules about how the charity should be managed and run. No changes have been made to the Articles of Association in Financial Year 2023 (FY23), 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023.

Scheme of Delegation

The Football Foundation's Scheme of Delegation sets out who has the authority to make decisions across the organisation and specifically who can authorise expenditure.

Board of Trustees

- Martin Glenn – Independent Chair
- Jack Pearce - The FA nominated representative
- Mark Bullingham - The FA CEO (ex-officio)
- Bill Bush - Premier League nominated representative
- Peter McCormick OBE – Premier League Stadium Fund Chair (ex-officio) *
- Elena Narozanski - DCMS nominated representative
- Tim Hollingsworth OBE - Sport England CEO (SE representative)
- Jemima Bird - Senior Independent
- Karen Taylor – Independent

* Peter McCormick OBE joined the Board as an Ex-Officio Trustee in August 2008. The remaining Trustees have served on the Board for less than 9 years.

Board Meeting Attendance FY23

The following table outlines Trustee attendance at Board meetings for FY23.

	Total meetings	Attended
Martin Glenn	4	4
Jack Pearce	4	4
Mark Bullingham	4	3
Bill Bush	4	3
Peter McCormick OBE	4	4
Elena Narozanski	4	4
Tim Hollingsworth OBE	4	4
Jemima Bird	4	2
Karen Taylor	4	4

Committees

The Foundation has two Committees that support the work of the Board of Trustees:

Audit, Remuneration and Governance Committee

The Audit, Remuneration and Governance Committee advises the Board on the Foundation's processes relating to audit, risk and governance, along with policy compliance. The Committee also reviews – and approves if appropriate - any recommendations for the remuneration of the Directors.

Audit, Remuneration and Governance Committee Membership

- Matthew Kirkby – Independent Chair
- Karen Taylor – Independent
- Serena Jacobs – Independent and co-opted member of the Committee
- Peter McCormick OBE – Premier League Stadium Fund Chair (ex-officio) *

* Peter McCormick OBE joined the Committee as an Ex-Officio Member in August 2008. The remaining Members have served on the Committee for less than 9 years.

Audit, Remuneration and Governance Committee Attendance FY23

The following table outlines attendance at Committee meetings for FY23.

	Total meetings	Attended
Matthew Kirkby	4	4
Karen Taylor	4	4
Peter McCormick OBE	4	4
Serena Jacobs	4	2

Football Foundation Grants Panel

The Football Foundation Grants Panel (the Grants Panel) provide independent scrutiny of all applications for grant funding, once these have been developed and assessed by the Foundation Executive, in line with approved Foundation processes and policies.

The Foundation Board of Trustees has fiduciary responsibility for all activities related to the Foundation. This includes awarding grants. However, the Board has delegated to the Grants Panel authority to approve grants up to a value of £1,000,000. The Grants Panel will also consider applications in excess £1,000,000 with a view to making a recommendation to the Board.

Grants Panel Membership

- Paul Spooner - Independent Chair
- Palma Black - Independent member
- Richard Smale - Independent member
- Rahul Bissoonauth - Independent member
- Francesca Brown - Independent member
- Sue Bowers - Independent member
- Nick Perchard - Premier League representative
- Phil Woodward - FA representative
- Patrick Brosnan - Sport England representative

Grants Panel Attendance FY23

The following table outlines attendance at Panel meetings for FY23.

	Total meetings	Attended
Paul Spooner	4	4
Palma Black	4	3
Richard Smale	4	4
Rahul Bissoonauth	4	3
Francesca Brown	3	1
Sue Bowers	4	4
Nick Perchard	4	2
Phil Woodward	4	4
Patrick Brosnan	4	4

Measuring the effectiveness of our Board, Committee and Panels

Evaluations of the different groups are undertaken periodically, and a record of each group's skills, performance and effectiveness is recorded. The below table sets out the frequency of the evaluations and the last reported evaluation.

	Frequency	Reported
Board (internal)	Annual	Sep-23
Board (external)	Every 4 years	Dec-20
Audit, Remuneration & Governance (internal)	Every 2 years	Sep-23
Grants Panel (internal)	Every 2 years	Sep-22

Register of Interests

The Foundation's register of interests lists all interests declared by the organisation's Trustees, Panel and Committee Members, Directors and employees. All are invited to review and update their declaration annually, at the beginning of the financial year. The up-to-date register is then presented to Board at its meeting in September.

Code for Sports Governance Compliance

The Code for Sports Governance sets out the levels of transparency, diversity and inclusion, accountability and integrity that are required from those organisations who seek – and are in receipt of – UK Government and National Lottery funding from Sport England and/or UK Sport. The Code was launched in 2016, and revisions published in December 2021, for compliance by February 2024.

Like many organisations in receipt of Government funding, the Foundation team has been working hard over the last year to make sure we meet all the revised standards and consider that we are well on our way to achieving this. A large element of this is for organisations to have a detailed and ambitious diversity and inclusion action plan, and we proudly published our *Together for Football* strategy earlier this year. This introduces a series of themes and actions designed to enable us to work together to drive our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) ambitions and ensure that this commitment is fully embedded in all that we do (<https://footballfoundation.org.uk/together-for-football>).

The Foundation is committed to meeting the ambitious standards of governance set out in the Code, and believe this will further support the Foundation to take effective decisions in the best interests of the charity, our team, and those who benefit from our work.

December 2023