

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

Victory House
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Sent via email

11 December 2023

Dear Greg

Thank you for your letter re ticket allocations to the Sunderland v Newcastle FA Cup match. I agree with you that the maximum number of supporters should be allowed to attend.

By law, operational policing is a matter for the Chief Constable. As the Police and Crime Commissioner I cannot order the Chief Constable to deploy resources. Issues regarding ticket allocation is matter for the clubs to discuss with the force, the two local councils and our transport operators. However, I made public my view that all sides should be working together to make this a match that as many fans can attend as possible, and therefore can confirm that I raised your letter directly with the Chief Constable on your behalf.

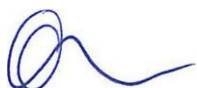
You're right to say this is one of the biggest derby matches in the country, and it's great to see our region's sporting passion on show from both sides. A packed out Stadium of Light on derby day will be an atmosphere like few others, and I hope we can make that happen.

We do though have to do this in a safe way. The vast majority of fans will want to avoid a repeat of the match day violence we have seen in previous games. As such, the police, the councils and the Metro operator will all have their say on the best way to avoid putting fans at risk, while also keeping the transport system running for other passengers.

I'd be happy to meet with fans to discuss any wider issues so please get in touch if you would like to arrange a date.

Best wishes
Kim

Kim McGuinness



Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner