



NEWCASTLE UNITED FOOTBALL COMPANY LIMITED

Mr Bob Smith
Chairman
Beacon Street Area Residents' Association
50 Beacon Street
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS13 7AT

14 October 2013

Dear Mr Smith,

Re: Disruptive behaviour by Newcastle United supporters on 14 September 2013 in Lichfield

I refer to your letter to Mr Ashley dated 7 October regarding the above matter and respond on his behalf.

I am aware of the issues caused by Newcastle supporters when they stopped at Lichfield on their way to the Aston Villa fixture and I agree that their behaviour as you describe in your letter, is unacceptable.

Newcastle United Football Club does not organise or provide official transport for our supporters to away matches. The coaches which stopped in Lichfield were privately hired by independent groups of supporters and therefore are regarded as unofficial supporter coaches. Because of this, the club is unable to take any action against the coach operators. We are however able to take action in the form of club sanctions against any supporter who was arrested or prosecuted as a direct result of their behaviour in Lichfield. Unfortunately, to date I have not received any such information from the police.

I can assure you however that Newcastle United Football Club does not condone the actions of its supporters in your town on that day. As soon as I was made aware, I contacted Northumbria Police to bring it to their attention and to encourage them to work with Staffordshire Police and the Traffic Commissioner to take action against the offending coach operators.

I have also reminded Northumbria Police of their responsibility to liaise closely with supporter group coach operators, to give advice on designated stops, to notify host police forces of supporter coaches travelling to away matches and to carry out compliance checks. I am confident that this will help prevent a repeat of the 'havoc' inflicted upon your town.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Storey
Head of Safety & Security
Newcastle United Football Club