

The Nov. 6, 2025 Banning Of Maccabi Tel Aviv Fans In Birmingham, UK

A Stop Secrecy Investigation
Prepared by Edward “Coach” Weinhaus
Litigator-In-Chief
January 8, 2026

Stop Secrecy

Transparency in Government

Stop Secrecy is a coalition of FOIA experts that care about one thing - transparency in government. Rather than separately, inefficiently, privately, and secretly, members join forces to gather information that belongs to us - all of us.

About Us

Stop Secrecy is the public-facing name of the Coalition Opposing Governmental Secrecy, a Missouri-based 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation

<https://StopSecrecy.org>

TIMELINE [Related to Nov. 6, 2025 Match]

- 1) Sep. 1, 2025: SGSA Member: Says will not attend for personal security reasons.
- 2) Sep. 4, 2025: SAG: Too early to hold a productive meeting.
- 3) Sep. 19, 2025: YFFP Posts on Instagram for “Outreach Event”
- 4) Sep. 25, 2025: “Outreach event”
- 5) Sep. 22, 2025: Birmingham council emails about “Poster” for outreach event.
- 6) Sep. 30, 2025: Agreement to “hold its stance” and to go through the motions. “That way, should UEFA question...at least we’ve completed the tasks asked of us.”
- 7) Oct. 7, 2025: First SAG meeting “starting at zero [visiting fans]” at which point the discussion of visiting fans behavior became a discussion point.
- 8) Oct. 17, 2025: Stop Secrecy’s local media partner made FOI request
- 9) Dec. 30, 2025: FOI Response Received.
- 10) Jan. 2, 2026: Stop Secrecy made a re-request for the poster related to the Outreach Event.
- 11) Jan. 2, 2026: Outreach Event poster disclosed.

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/c3rhtf02n6ktq907ummdx/AMsIjcd_bd_K-y1MVbn4GIxI?rlkey=ae533bjv4x0gu1zfmrofx2xcd&st=r3bjwt1w&dl=0

THE RESOURCE FOLDER

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/c3rhtf02n6ktq907ummdx/AMsIjcdbd_K-y1MVbn4GIxI?rlkey=ae533bjv4x0gu1zfmrofx2xcd&st=r3bjwt1w&dl=0



THE REQUEST - October 17, 2025

Request

Dear FOI Team,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide copies of any official correspondence, meeting notes, or briefings referring to 'Aston Villa' and 'Maccabi Tel Aviv F.C.' in relation to the scheduled match at Villa Park from 29 August 2025 to the present, including any Safety Advisory Group papers or risk/crowd safety assessments.

If this exceeds the Section 12 cost limit, please advise under Section 16 on a narrower scope. If any information is exempt, please provide non-exempt portions and cite the relevant exemption(s).

DELAYED RESPONSE Dec. 30, 2025



Our ref: 78336872
30 December 2025

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request

Dear FOI Team,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide copies of any official correspondence, meeting notes, or briefings referring to 'Aston Villa' and 'Maccabi Tel Aviv F.C.' in relation to the scheduled match at Villa Park from 29 August 2025 to the present, including any Safety Advisory Group papers or risk/crowd safety assessments.

If this exceeds the Section 12 cost limit, please advise under Section 16 on a narrower scope. If any information is exempt, please provide non-exempt portions and cite the relevant exemption(s).

Response

Thank you for your email of 17 October where you requested information about 'Communications re Aston Villa v Maccabi Tel Aviv F.C match at Villa Park'. We have dealt with this under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Following receipt of your request, the Council undertook a review of the information held relevant to your request and as part of this process, consulted the Safety Advisory Group's (SAG) partner organisations in respect of the information they provided to the SAG which is the subject of your information request.

Information Governance Team
City Operations Directorate
Birmingham City Council



Information request (ref: 78336872)

Birmingham City Council <infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk>
To: [REDACTED]

Tue, 30 Dec 2025 at 16:27

Information request
Our reference: 78336872



Thank you for your request for information received on 17 October 2025. We sincerely apologise for the delay in providing you with our response.

Please find attached our response to your request.

Yours sincerely

Information Governance Team
City Operations Directorate
Birmingham City Council

We confirm we hold the requested information and have listed below the information which can be disclosed:

- 25.10.16 SAG to AVFC_Redacted
- Agenda AVFCSAG 7-10-25_Redacted
- Agenda_SAG_16 10 2025_Redacted
- Letter of Response to SAG re Aston Villa Match 10 10 2025_Redacted
- Letter to SAG re Aston Villa Match 08 10 2025_Redacted
- Minutes - AVFC Maccabi Tel Aviv SAG 07.10.25_Redacted
- Minutes - AVFC v Maccabi Tel Aviv 16.10.2025_Redacted
- Re_AVFC v Maccabi Tel Aviv F.C - Transport Plan_Redacted
- RE_Community Tensions - Villa Park - Thurs 25th Sept_Redacted
- Re_[External]_Maccabi Intelligence_Redacted
- RE_[External]_Re_OFFICIAL SENSITIVE Aston Villa Europa League fixture 6 November 2025_Redacted
- RE_Forthcoming fixtures at Villa Park_Redacted
- RE_For your attention - Letter from ACC WMP_Redacted
- RE_Maccabi Tel-Aviv Fixture SAG Approach and Letter from ACC WMP_Redacted
- RE_Öp Parkmill - Aston villa vs Maccabi T.Aviv_Redacted
- Tel Aviv _Aston Villa game_Redacted

EXCEPTIONS TO RESPONSE December 30, 2025

Section 31(1)(a)–(b) FOIA – Law Enforcement

We are applying Section 31(1) of the FOIA, which provides an exemption where disclosure “*would, or would be likely to, prejudice*”:

- s31(1)(a): the prevention or detection of crime
- s31(1)(b): the apprehension or prosecution of offenders

Section 38(1)(a) FOIA – Health and Safety

We are also applying Section 38(1)(a), which exempts information where disclosure “*would, or would be likely to, endanger the physical or mental health or the safety of any individual.*”

Rationale for Applying This Exemption

The withheld information includes:

- management strategies
- services coordination details

Section 40(2) – Third Party Personal Data

This section provides that personal data of an individual other than the requester is exempt from disclosure under the FOIA if releasing it would contravene any of the data protection principles set out in Article 5(1) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

We have withheld the names, job titles, email addresses of individuals referenced in emails, letters, and SAG minutes. This information constitutes third party personal data, the nature of the information contained in the documents is such that it could be used, in conjunction with other publicly available information to identify the relevant individuals directly or indirectly in particular by reference to identifiers such as full name, occupation, and location data.

The relevant data protection principle is Article 5(1)a of the UK GDPR which states that:

“Personal Data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.”

SNIPPETS

Sep. 1, 2025 - SGSA “I will not be attending this fixture as a result of my own personal risk assessment”

In the light of the geopolitical and local sensitivities I wonder if it would be worth having a closed SAG to discuss this fixture and any security overlay and additionality it will require. From extensive personal experience the Israelis will want and expect some additional resources.

Please note I will not be attending this fixture as a result of my own personal risk assessment.

Sep. 4, 2025: WMP
“Too early to hold a productive meeting”

I think at the moment we maybe too early hold a productive SAG as there are so many unknowns, but agree it maybe appropriate in due course.

Sep. 22, 2025 - EMAIL - “Community Tensions - Villa Park Thurs. 25th Sep”

Birmingham notes ...

“Please see attached poster promoting an

OUTREACH EVENT

Scheduled to take place at Aston Villa, this Thursday, ahead of their upcoming European fixture...

...emerging concerns.”

OFFICIAL

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 September 2025 11:00

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>
Cc: Waqar Ahmed <Waqar.Ahmed@birmingham.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>
Subject: Community Tensions - Villa Park - Thurs 25th Sept

Morning all,

Following this morning's tactical meeting, please see attached a poster promoting an outreach event scheduled to take place at Aston Villa this Thursday, ahead of their upcoming European fixture.

I understand that a Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting is planned in advance of the Maccabi Tel Aviv match on 6th November. However, it may be worth monitoring Thursday's event or liaising with the match organisers to ensure they are aware of any emerging concerns.

Hold Stance Jan. 2, 2026

From: [REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 10:57:45 AM
To: [REDACTED]@sgsa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@avfc.co.uk>
Subject: Re: Forthcoming fixtures at Villa Park

Thanks [REDACTED]

Appreciate your support

[REDACTED] backed our assessment, let me know what if any further support I can offer to you and the club

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 September 2025 13:35
To: [REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@sgsa.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Forthcoming fixtures at Villa Park

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - Forgive me for my phone signal this morning. I then got lost within the underground system in London.

[REDACTED] - I have tasked myself to formally record with you what mitigations we can put in place regarding some of the points raised. That way, should UEFA question the clubs/local authority thought processes, at least we've completed the tasks asked of us.

I guess that the only outstanding action because UEFA do want a further meeting, is for all parties to agree to hold its stance and reject to alter the licence. The alternatives is reducing the S Factor (which I'd like to avoid).

Oct. 7, 2025 “Start with Zero”

At the opening agenda,

“Starting from zero” Maccabi Tel Aviv Fans

Chair of SAG	<p>█: appreciate the sensitivity but plans must be shared to ensure safety in and around club, none sharing of the plans cannot be accepted, required in order to prove safe. Will arrange a smaller group with core members to discuss but on grounds of safety, plans will need to be reviewed to get capacity number up from zero.</p> <p>Q: why start at 0 instead for normality?</p>
SGSA	<p>█: Starting from 0; safe capacity is based upon set of ops plans and procedures, safe capacity has to be based upon assessment risks and plans, safe capacity is not an aspirational number it's a number presented by club to LA that club can manage that number safely based up on the plans and risk</p>

OFFICIAL

 Birmingham City Council	Safety Advisory Group Aston Villa: Maccabi Tel Aviv SAG
---	--

AVFC	<p>assessment in place. it is easier to start fom zero then to work back, that was my advice to LA. Which is why the plans are required for reviewing.</p> <p>█: Issue is SAG is open to public form: info can be requested under FOI. I safely accommodate fans both home and away inside of the red line of the safety certificate. Zone ex to be reviewed and requires partners consultation.</p>
Chair of SAG	<p>█: FOI: ops plans do not fall under FOI; as FOI it would come to me as SAG chair first. A number of partners have expressed concerns as it stands SAG can't ensure safety, will need to work through offline to ensure correct level of assurance on plans inside and outside of stadium to maintain safety standard required.</p>

RE-REQUEST JAN 2, 2026 - WHERE IS THE POSTER?



Information request (ref: 78336872)

To: Birmingham City Council <infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk>

Fri, 2 Jan at 14:00

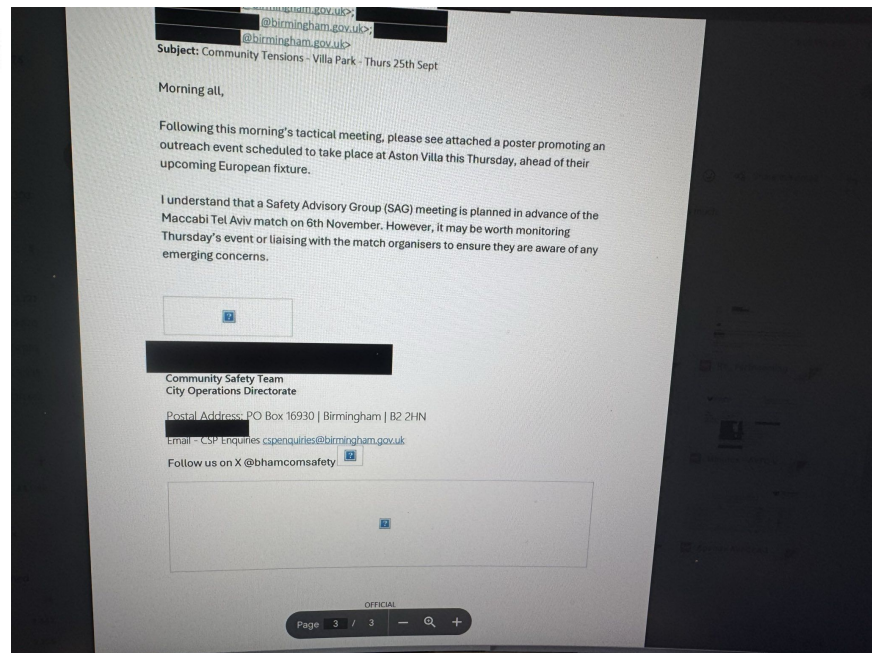
Hi,

Thanks for this.

I am curious to know why the posters have not been included in the response. Please see attached an example of what I mean.

Can we please have the according posters attached?

Best,



RE-RESPONSE JAN 2, 2026



Information request (ref: 78336872)

Birmingham City Council <infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk>

Fri, 2 Jan at 15:15

To: [Redacted]

Please see attached poster, which has been obtained from the service area, following your enquiry about it.

Kind Regards

Information Governance Team
City Operations Directorate
Birmingham City Council

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Fri Jan 02 2026 14:00:03 GMT
To: infogovernance@birmingham.gov.uk
Subject: Re: Information request (ref: 78336872)

(Attachments:) Email (original message) from [Redacted] received on 02/01/2026.eml, Email from [Redacted] - Re: Information request .pdf, Screenshot 2026-01-02 at 13.58.41.png

[Quoted text hidden]
1000008103.jpg.jpeg, 1000008101.jpg.jpeg

In the same month Russia invaded Ukraine, FIFA banned Russia. Yet despite over 700 days of genocide in Palestine, an Israeli team is being openly welcomed to play in our backyards.

@FIFA is continuing to delay taking action against the abominable entity of Israel and ensuring its legitimacy.

The UN COI have just declared that a genocide is occurring against the Palestinian people. All states are under a legal obligation to use all means available to stop the crimes against the Palestinian people and to hold those responsible to account - as global citizens, this includes you.

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions demands of us to isolate and cut all complicity with the genocidal pariah entity of Israel; economically, politically and culturally. To punish those who dare legitimise and support the Zionist entity.

Thus, it is a duty upon us to make everything and anything associated with the Zionist entity unwelcome and unwanted. Football is not innocent. The Israeli Football Association not only helps to normalise the genocidal state of Israel but also actively participates in the occupation of Palestine, with many Israeli football clubs operating on stolen land and illegal settlements.

This is why we need all football fans to show up and show out more than they already have, we can not accept the normalisation of the crimes committed against the Palestinian people!

📍 Meeting point: Aston Hall, B6 6JD
📅 Thursday 25th September
🕒 6.30pm

Up the Villa but DOWN with Zionism 🇨🇦🇮



WHAT WAS THE EVENT ON SEP 25, 2025 CAUSING START FROM ZERO MACCABI FANS ON OCT. 7, 2025?

Youth Front For Palestine

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DOyECLEjNKR/>

Posted Sep. 19, 2025.



In the same month Russia invaded Ukraine, FIFA banned Russia. Yet despite over 700 days of genocide in Palestine, an Israeli team is being openly welcomed to play in our backyards.

@FIFA is continuing to delay taking action against the abominable entity of Israel and ensuring its legitimacy.

The UN COI have just declared that a genocide is occurring against the Palestinian people. All states are under a legal obligation to use all means available to stop the crimes against the Palestinian people and to hold those responsible to account - as global citizens, this includes you.

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions demands of us to isolate and cut all complicity with the genocidal pariah entity of Israel; economically, politically and culturally. To punish those who dare legitimise and support the Zionist entity.

Thus, it is a duty upon us to make everything and anything associated with the Zionist entity unwelcome and unwanted. Football is not innocent. The Israeli Football Association not only helps to normalise the genocidal state of Israel but also actively participates in the occupation of Palestine, with many Israeli football clubs operating on stolen land and illegal settlements.

This is why we need all football fans to show up and show out more than they already have, we can not accept the normalisation of the crimes committed against the Palestinian people!

📍 Meeting point: Aston Hall, B6 6JD
📅 Thursday 25th September
🕒 6.30pm

Up the Villa but DOWN with Zionism 🇺🇸🇵🇸

20251009_RE_AVE... Maccabi Tel Aviv FC - Transport Plan.pdf
20251009_RE_Community Tensions - Villa Park - Thurs 25th Sept.pdf

OFFICIAL

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 September 2025 11:00

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>
Cc: Waqar Ahmed <Waqar.Ahmed@birmingham.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@birmingham.gov.uk>

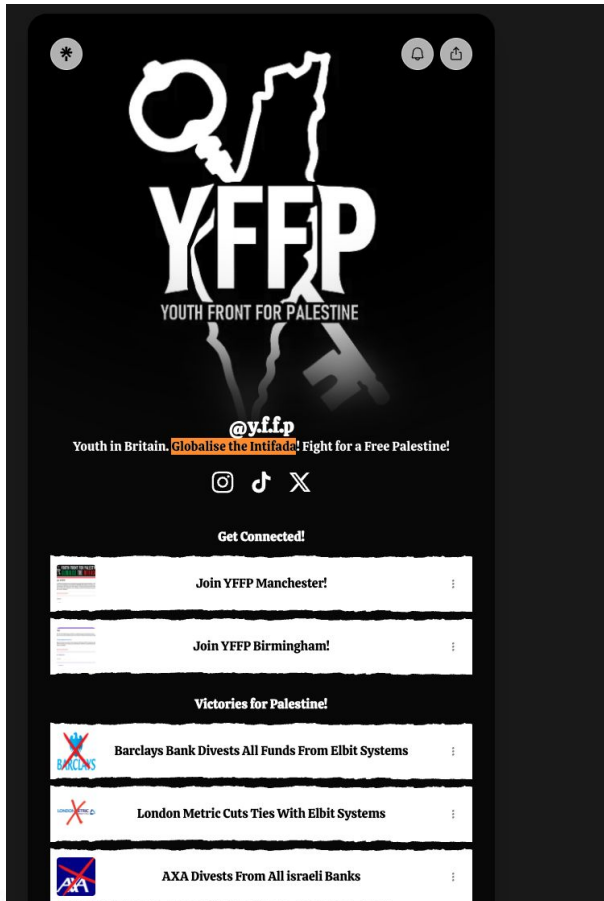
Subject: Community Tensions - Villa Park - Thurs 25th Sept

Morning all,

Following this morning's tactical meeting, please see attached a poster promoting an outreach event scheduled to take place at Aston Villa this Thursday, ahead of their upcoming European fixture.

I understand that a Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting is planned in advance of the Maccabi Tel Aviv match on 6th November. However, it may be worth monitoring Thursday's event or liaising with the match organisers to ensure they are aware of any emerging concerns.

Youth Front For Palestine Works With Palestine Action to “Globalise the Intifada”



Britain / 31 December 2024

Fight for Palestine will intensify in 2025, peace activists vow



Elizabeth Short

Recent



Far-Right / 7 January 2026

Farage announces another Tory defector as London mayoral candidate

Prison Reform / 7 January 2026

Campaigners slam £4m a year for unusable prison

As the Morning Star was going to press, Greater Manchester Friends of Palestine held a vigil last night with Manchester **Palestine Action and Youth Front for Palestine** at Dr Adnan Al-Bursh Park (formerly Brunswick Park), to honour Palestinians killed last year. Another vigil will take place tonight at 5pm at Brooks Bar Junction.

<https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/fight-palestine-will-intensify-2025-peace-activists-vow>

STOP SECRECY

Leadership



Elisabeth Aikins

Director and Volunteer Head of Member Relations



Edward "Coach" Weinhaus, Esq.

Founding Litigator-in-Chief

(601) JLA FOIA
Journalist's Legal Assistance with FOIA
(601) 552-3642

CatholicVote

Edgar County Watchdogs

JUDICIOCRACY

Parents Care

CAFE ASSOCIATION

METRIC MEDIA

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN WORKERS

CHILDREN OF THE COURT

CLEARFRONT ALLIANCE

SLA IIVVI III Sinal Legal Association for Memory and Modernity


APPENDIX


20251230_birmingham_Response Files

Name


 20250901_RE_ [External]_ Re_ OFFICIAL SENSITIVE Aston Villa Europa League fixture 6 November 2025.pdf

 20250930_RE_ Forthcoming fixtures at Villa Park.pdf

 20251001_RE_ Op Parkmill - Aston villa vs Maccabi T.Aviv.pdf

 20251007_Agenda AVFCSAG 7-10-25.pdf


 20251007_Minutes - AVFC Maccabi Tel Aviv SAG 07.10.25.pdf

 20251008_Letter to SAG re Aston Villa Match 08 10 2025.pdf

 20251008_Re_ AVCF v Maccabi Tel Aviv F.C - Transport Plan.pdf

 20251009_RE_ Community Tensions - Villa Park - Thurs 25th Sept.pdf

 20251009_RE_ For your attention - Letter from ACC WMP.pdf

 20251009_RE_ Maccabi Tel-Aviv Fixture SAG Approach and Letter from ACC WMP.pdf


 20251010_Letter of Response to SAG re Aston Villa Match 10 10 2025.pdf

 20251014_Re_ [External]_ Maccabi Intelligence.pdf

 20251015_Tel Aviv _ Aston Villa game.pdf

 20251016_25.10.16 SAG to AVFC.pdf


 20251016_Agenda_SAG_16 10 2025.pdf

 20251016_Minutes - AVFC v Maccabi Tel Aviv 16.10.2025.pdf

20260102_Causal_images

Name

 Image B.jpeg

 Image C.jpeg