Dear Mr. Allon,

I have read your 3 letters of 21st April and have read them 7 times. I have passed on the statements for consideration by the Inquiry which witnesses to call at the Inquiry. You'll
appreciate that we call everybody who has trouble to
day court policy to beginning
for years. A representative
selection will be made to
will read all written made.

They thanks for your kindness.

Your ever

[Signature]
Lord Justice Taylor,
House of Lords,
London,
SW1A 0PW

Dear Lord Taylor,

Last Friday I visited three young men, constituents of mine, who had been in the thick of the crush at Hillsborough. They are still at school, and although they very shocked by what they experienced, I think that they have a great deal to offer the Inquiry. I was visible in some of the photographs that appeared after the tragedy.

I was in the ground by 1.30, and said he felt that it was filling dangerously fast. He had been searched twice outside the ground, but not inside and he had not been asked for a ticket. By 2.30 he said that "it was like being among people who were drowning", and that people were screaming with pain and fear but nothing was done.

His feet were lifted off the ground, he was crushed against a bar and the wind was driven out of him. At 3.10 he clambered over the security fence and asked the police to fetch a wire cutter. They refused to do this, neither did they remove the goal netting that obstructed hundreds of people. One of his friends was punched by a police officer while trying to struggle free of the crowd.

At 3.30, they were moving a corpse and a photographer drew down the coat that was covering the dead man's face and asked them to pose. It was 4.00 pm before Kenny Dalgleish came on the tannoy to try to appeal for calm.
It seems from the Liverpool Echo report, a copy of which I enclose, that there was no attempt to stop fans without tickets before they reached the ground. I am sure that this will be a vital part of your Inquiry. Furthermore, I also enclose copies of a report of a statement made by Peter Robinson, the Chief Executive of Liverpool Football Club, made on March 22nd, and which I sent that day to Colin Moynihan. I enclose the Minister's extremely complacent reply.

Having spent two hours with these three young men who were in the very worst of the crush and subsequent rescue, I am sure that they have an important contribution to make to the inquiry, and I think that you should hear their descriptions yourself. They are [name], Liverpool 17; [name], Liverpool 19; [name], Liverpool 19. I hope that you will be able to come to Liverpool to see these young men, and I can only add that I will be happy to co-operate in any way that I can with the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

David Alton, MP for Liverpool Mossley Hill.
22 March: The Daily Express article that David Alton sent to Minister for Sport, Colin Moynihan, warning him that the management of Liverpool FC were uneasy at the FA cup semi-final being played at Hillsborough.

By JOHN KEITH

LIVERPOOL chief executive Peter Robinson last night blasted the FA over their Cup semi-final venue and ticket plans.

"They appear to be living in an ivory tower showing a complete disregard for the fans who are the lifeblood of the game," he declared.

The champions are furious over the FA's choice of Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough ground to stage their April 15 semi-final collision with Nottingham Forest for the second season running.

"Their decision is unjust and it means that many of our loyal supporters are going to miss out," rapped Robinson.

Angry

Although Liverpool's average Anfield attendance of almost 38,000 is more than 17,000 higher than Forest's, the Mersey club's ticket share is only 24,400 contrasting with Forest's 28,000.

That 3,600 shortfall is caused by Forest fans being allocated the Kop end of Hillsborough on police advice to allow for access to the stadium from the South—a repeat of last season's arrangements.

But angry Robinson revealed: "I spoke to the FA after the semi-final draw had been made but before they had taken a decision on choice of venue.

"I told them that last year we accepted what had been done after the venue had been decided. And I stressed we had no objection to Hillsborough as a ground, and that we must abide by any security measures laid down by the police.

"But I made it plain that there was no way I could support the choice of Hillsborough this year with the same ticket allocations applying.

An FA spokesman said:

"There is no question of the venue being changed. Liverpool contacted us and we were aware of their opinions before the Challenge Cup Committee made their choice.

Choice

"They take into account geographical location and the two competing clubs. They don't really look at average gates. Old Trafford and Maine Road were considered but Hillsborough was the choice."
Thank you for your letter of 22 March enclosing a cutting from the Daily Express about the venue for the FA Cup semi-final match, Liverpool v Nottingham Forest.

The choice of venue for these matches and the allocation of tickets is entirely a matter for the football authorities. I understand that the Football Association took account of Liverpool's views in considering the venue for the match against Nottingham but decided that, in all the circumstances, the Sheffield Wednesday ground at Hillsborough was the most appropriate location. The arrangements for the allocation of tickets have been handled by the Sheffield Wednesday club who are staging the game on behalf of the Football Association. I gather, as suggested in the Daily Express article, that the allocations were made on the basis of police advice.

Yours sincerely,

Colin

COLIN MOYNIHAN

David Alton Esq MP
LARGE numbers of Liverpool fans did make the journey across the Pennines without tickets.

Witnesses say they were allowed to make their way unchallenged right up to the Leppings Lane end — adding to the growing crowd and the chaos.

But Peter Faulkner, deputy chairman of the Liverpool Trust, who saw Saturday’s tragic scenes, said: “I was afraid there was a lot of fans who didn’t have tickets, hoping they could get in.

But in reality when I was stood at Hillsborough there was a checking of tickets which took us away from the ground.

‘Then the fans were filtered through to the ground. None of that happened on Saturday.”

Dr John Williams, an expert on soccer crowds, was at the game. He said: ‘You could see a lot of lads were looking for tickets a long way from the ground.”

He added: “There was no attempt at the end of the road approaching the ground to discriminate between ticket holders and non-ticket holders. Supporters were going down as a common mass. It was like an avalanche.”

While the crush and the chaos increased outside the Leppings Lane end, the Nottingham Forest fans encountered no problems getting into Hillsborough.

Club secretary Peter White said the club had sold their full ticket allocation. He said there was no problem with tickets being available for the Forest supporters quite easily.

‘We have had no reports of our fans having trouble trying to get into the ground.”

The allocation of FA Cup tickets for major ties has been a bone of contention on Merseyside. A Liverpooi trading standards department probe into the allocation of tickets revealed abuse of FA rules when it was published last year.

The department claimed ticket shortages led to violent scenes outside Wembley with touts attacking and ticketless fans charging gates.

But semi-finals differ from the Wembley game — all tickets were divided between the two clubs.

Mawdsley, Chief Trading Standards Officer said: “I would say that inadequate ticket allocation systems for major matches in the past have resulted in significant numbers of fans being used to travelling to games without tickets.

‘It may have been one contributory factor, only the inquiry and time will tell.”

SENTENCED TO CHAOS

PRINTED in block capitals on Hillsborough semi-final tickets is a lettering to the effect: “You are requested to take up your position 15 minutes before kickoff if you are not seated by 2.45 pm. You will be searched by police and the security services. The police will take action against anyone causing disruption to the game.”

The two blocks of standing and seated fans were separated by a steel barrier.公安 that they do not approach from the same direction and many spoke of the confusion as people tried to get through.

A Liverpool police spokesperson said: “We had no problems at all. No one was caught up in the crush.”

Norman Bush is the Liverpool City Council’s fire safety officer who is involved in safety of all of the clubs.

He says: “People have got into a real mess where they can arrive in the last five minutes.”

Medical doctor Neil Wilson, 21, from West Derby, arrived at the Leppings Lane and said: “It was just an ever-expanding crowd building up. There were no facilities for the crowd at all.”

A Liverpool junior officer said: “At Anfield there are about 18,000 fans packed into 10 minutes to three and get in, because it is not a yellow player at Anfield. I don’t think half past two is the late to get into a match. It is ridiculous.”