

From: The Rt Hon Lord Justice Taylor

MP25



Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
London WC2A 2LL

26/4/89

Dear Mr Alton

I have

your 3 letters of 24 April
and have read them & their

enclosures. I have passed on
the statements for consideration
then kindly which witnesses
to call at the inquiry. You'll

appreciate that to call
everybody who has something to
say could probably be trying
for years. A representative
selection will be made & I
will read all written material.

They thank you very much

Yours ever

Phil Sayer



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
David Alton's Office

24/4/89

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. [redacted] was visible in some of the photographs that appeared after the tragedy.

[redacted] 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 Dalglish 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

[redacted] of [redacted], Liverpool 19; [redacted]
[redacted] of [redacted] Liverpool 17 and [redacted] of [redacted]
[redacted], 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.

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."

DAILY

EXPRESS

22/3/89.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-276 3000

My ref: M/PSO/11252/89
Your ref:

11 APR 1989

Dear David,

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

The Hillsborough tragedy

VITAL MISSING FILTER ON WAY TO TURNSTILES

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.

Edward Faulkner, deputy chairman of the Football Trust, who saw Saturday's tragic scenes, said he was afraid there were a lot of fans who did not have tickets, hoping they could get in.

"Last year when the game was played at Hillsborough there was a checking of tickets taking place some distance away from the ground. None of that happened on Saturday."

Dr John Williams, an expert on soccer crowds, was also 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 ticketholders. Supporters were going down as a common mass."

"There was no attempt to stop people without tickets getting to the turnstiles."

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 the Hillsborough Kop had accommodated the Forest supporters "quite comfortably."

He added: "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 long been a bone of contention on Merseyside.

A Liverpool trading standards department probe into the allocation of Cup Final 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 attacked and ticketless fans charging gates.

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

Peter 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 simple sentence: "You are requested to take up your position 15 minutes before kick off."

Many Liverpool fans who arrived before 2.45 pm found themselves caught up in the growing crush at Leppings Lane.

The two blocks of standing and seating entrance at the Leppings Lane end were next to each other, separated by a steel barrier.

Fans had to approach them from the same direction and many spoke of the confusion as people converged, heading for both sections.

Norman Bush is the Liverpool City Council officer involved in safety at both Anfield and Goodison.

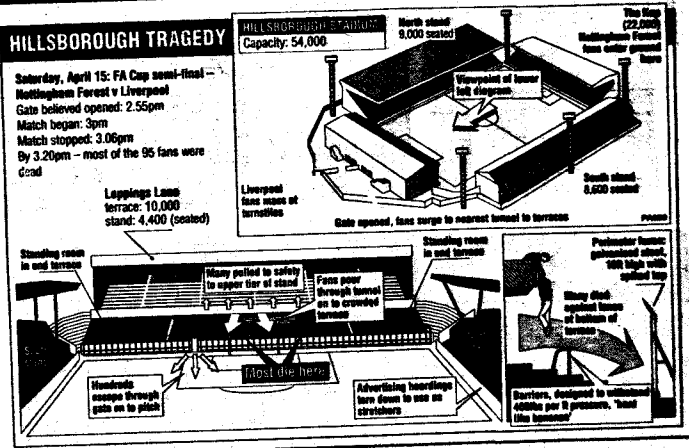
He says: "People have got into a bad habit since all ticket matches. Everyone thinks they can arrive in the last five minutes."

Medical student Niall Wilson, 21, from West Derby, arrived at the Leppings Lane end at 2.30 pm.

He said: "Instead of queues, there was just an ever-expanding crowd building up. There appeared to be no marshalling of supporters."

A Liverpool season ticket holder he adds: "At Anfield we know we can turn up at ten minutes to three and get in, because it is organised.

"What happened there couldn't happen at Anfield. I don't think half past two is too late to get into a match, it is ridiculous."



90° ROTARY CLOTHES AIRER £9.99 £6.99 BRITISH MADE TOP QUALITY!	4LT CREOSOTE £2.49 £1.99 DARK OR LIGHT	P.B.I. LAWN SPREADER SPECIAL OFFER! £9.99 WITH 600 SQ. FT. TOP LAWN FREE! SPECIAL OFFER!	SUPER QUALITY! CORRUGATED CLEAR P.V.C. ROOFING 3" CORRUGATIONS SAVE 55%! 6' x 20' £5.99 £4.99 8' x 20' £7.99 £6.45 10' x 20' £9.99 £7.90
--	--	--	--

GALVANISED INCINERATORS £11.99 £9.99 HEAVY DUTY 50 ONLY! AT THIS PRICE!	GALVANISED WHEEL BARROWS £14.95 £12.95 STRONG CONSTRUCTION 20 ONLY!	<h1>50% OFF</h1> <h2>LIONS HEAD BENCH</h2>
--	--	--

TRELLIS FENCING e.g. 6x2 £5.25 HEAVY QUALITY FULLY CREOSOTED	CREOSOTED FENCE POST PER FOOT 48p READY CREOSOTED	<p>SAVE 55%!! SPECIAL PURCHASE</p> <p>*LIONS HEAD BENCHES WERE SOLD FOR £93.50 AT TASKERS DURING 1988 SEASON.</p> <p>TOP QUALITY LOWEST EVER PRICE!</p> <p>HEAVY BLACK CAST IRON ENDS WITH SOLID HARDWOOD SLATS</p> <p>£39.95</p> <p>LIMITED QUANTITY AVAILABLE</p> <p>LOWEST EVER PRICE!</p>
WANNEY LAP FENCING 6 x 5 £7.95 6 x 6 £8.95 FULLY CREOSOTED HEAVY 6x5 - £9.95 QUALITY 6x6 - £10.95	METPOST FENCE SUPPORTS £3.95 £3.50 NO DIGGING-NO CONCRETE! OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE	

ONE-DAY SATURDAY GARDENING SPECIALS ONLY!

THESE OFFERS ARE AVAILABLE TOMORROW ONLY (Sat. 22nd April) FROM 9am. TO 5.30pm.

- BULLRUSH 3PLANT GRO-BAGS **£1.29**
- 100LT. FISONS RICH DARK PEAT **£3.99**
- GIANT BALE 200LT. BULLRUSH IRISH MOSS PEAT **£5.99**
- 80LT. FISONS LEVINGTON COMPOST **£4.99**
- L.C.I. FOREST BARK COMPOST **£4.99**

(all offers subject to availability)

MONDAY-SATURDAY 9am to 5.30pm.
LATE NIGHT THURSDAY 7.30pm.
051-708 6098

You'll always get it at

TASKERS

THE DIY SUPERSTORE

WAVERTREE ROAD, LIVERPOOL