

By email

The Lord Kennedy of Southwark
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PA

15 February 2021

Dear Lord Kennedy

Northampton Borough Council – Northampton Town F.C. – KPMG Public Interest Report

By way of introduction, Northampton Town Supporters Ltd (the “Trust”) was established in 1992 as the first independent supporters trust in this country under the legislation in force at the time. The Trust is registered with and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

The Trust’s Board of Directors has considered the public interest report published by KPMG on 27 January 2021 in respect of the above captioned matter. The “disappearance” of more than £10 million of public funds is a major scandal and has cast a long shadow over Northampton Borough Council (NBC) and its conduct in relation to the loan made to Northampton Town Football Club. To this day the East Stand, for which part of the loan was advanced, remains only partially constructed and there appears to be no prospect of any progress towards its completion at any time in the near future. The supporters of the football club, as well as the local taxpayers, are innocent victims of dishonesty, negligence and sheer incompetence.

The Trust’s directors are extremely perturbed to read KPMG’s recommendation that on the grounds of costs and the fact that NBC will cease to exist shortly there should be no civil litigation commenced against those named and unnamed in the KPMG report as having responsibility in the matter. Given the findings of KPMG in relation to the conduct of certain NBC officers and councillors the Trust board is strongly of the opinion that the reasoning of KPMG for no civil legal action is without merit and that KPMG’s recommendation should not be followed. At the time of writing and following, more than five years of investigation by the police, we understand a report has been submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service. The decision of the CPS is pending on the matter of criminal prosecutions. However, the Trust’s directors do not consider that the decisions of the CPS should have a direct bearing on the need to hold all those responsible at NBC accountable in the civil courts. Not to take appropriate legal action in such circumstances would set a dangerous precedent.

We are aware of your interest in this matter and the questions you have put in the House of Lords and we wish to make clear to you our views on the matter.

We will be publishing this letter on our website and in the local media to make our views known to our members, NTFC supporters generally and the wider Northampton community.

Yours sincerely

Andy Roberts, Chairman
NTFC Supporters Limited