

Football file.

PRIME MINISTER

23 May 1985

FOOTBALL/POLICE CHARGES

Following your meeting with MPs in the Commons when they made a complaint that too much money is charged by the police for their work at football matches, you will see from the note from Neil MacFarlane that police charges are relatively small.

In fact, Police charges under Section 15(1) of the Police Act 1964 are:

1. agreed as a standard rate by clubs and police at the beginning of the season;
2. for only a fraction of actual police time.

The Police Act allows the Clubs the extraordinary power to decide how many police are needed at a match - even though the police may know better. It is not practical to alter this, but Clubs get their police at bargain prices.

Hartley Booth.

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