



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
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*CCBI*

My ref: M/PSO/14952/85

Your ref:

*[Handwritten squiggle]*

*11 July 1985*

*Prime Minister. (4)*

*You will recall MoD being reprimanded  
the Scottish allegations of bad behaviour  
by servicemen abroad at football  
PT 5 matches. It seems to be a fuss  
about nothing. MGA 12/7*

*Dear Mr Addison*

Thank you for your letter of 17 June in which you asked me for a note on the background to the point made by Mr Stewart in his letter of 14 June to my Minister on the embarrassment which British Service personnel have caused at football matches in Europe. I have also seen a copy of Lord Trefgarne's letter of 21 June to Mr Stewart on this subject.

Mr Macfarlane has been concerned at various times about the behaviour of Servicemen at matches abroad but, despite various unofficial reports of bad behaviour the Ministry of Defence know of only two recorded incidents in the last five years. MOD considers that neither of these was serious; in 1981, at a European cup semi-final in Brussels, a soldier ran on the pitch and was arrested by the police; in 1982, at the World Cup finals in Spain, two airmen were alleged to have caused damage to two coaches.

My Minister's letter and enclosures show how we have developed our arrangements with the Ministry of Defence for passing on information about matches so that they can take any appropriate action. We are content with these arrangements and see no reason why they should not be extended to cover Scotland.

I am copying this letter to the Private Offices of the Ministers to whom Mr Stewart copied his.

*Yours sincerely*

*Paul Heron*

PAUL HERON  
Private Secretary

