

Unauthorised Entry to Football Matches Bill

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Explanatory notes to the Bill, prepared by the Home Office with the consent of Kevin Brennan, are published separately as Bill 31—EN.

Unauthorised Entry to Football Matches Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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B I L L

TO

Create an offence of unauthorised entry at football matches; and to provide for the offence to be listed as an offence for which a football banning order can be imposed following conviction.

BE IT ENACTED by the King’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Offence of unauthorised entry to designated football matches

In the Football (Offences) Act 1991, after section 1 (designated football matches) insert—

“1A Unauthorised entry

- (1) A person (“P”) commits an offence if— 5
 - (a) P enters, or attempts to enter, premises for the purpose of attending a designated football match, and
 - (b) at the time of entry, or attempted entry, P does not have a match ticket for the match that P is eligible to use.
- (2) It is a defence to prove that P had lawful authority or lawful excuse for entering, or attempting to enter, the premises. 10
- (3) It is a defence to prove that—
 - (a) P entered, or attempted to enter, the premises through an entry point normally used by spectators, and
 - (b) at the time of entry or attempted entry— 15
 - (i) P had a match ticket for the match that P was not eligible to use, and
 - (ii) P reasonably believed that the match ticket had not already been used by any other person.
- (4) In this section— 20
 - “match ticket” means a ticket or other document which authorises a person to enter premises for the purpose of attending a designated football match;
 - “premises” includes any place.”

2 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only.
- (2) This Act comes into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument appoint.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Unauthorised Entry to Football Matches Act 2024. 5

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*Presented by Kevin Brennan
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