

# **Unauthorised Entry to Football Matches Bill**

---

---

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

Explanatory notes to the Bill, prepared by the Home Office with the consent of Linsey Farnsworth, are published separately as Bill 24—EN.



# Unauthorised Entry to Football Matches Bill

---

[AS INTRODUCED]

## CONTENTS

- 1 Offence of unauthorised entry to designated football matches
- 2 Extent, commencement and short title



[AS INTRODUCED]

A

# B I L L

TO

Create an offence of unauthorised entry at football matches for which a football banning order can be imposed following conviction.

**B**E 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,
  - (b) at the time of entry or attempted entry, P had something that they reasonably believed was a match ticket for the match, and 15
  - (c) the thing that P had—
    - (i) was not a match ticket for the match, or
    - (ii) was a match ticket for the match but P was not eligible to use it. 20
- (4) In this section—
  - “match ticket” means a ticket or other thing (whether in physical or electronic form) which authorises a person to enter premises for the purpose of attending a designated football match;
  - “premises” includes any place.” 25

**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 2025. 5



# Unauthorised Entry to Football Matches Bill

---

---

[AS INTRODUCED]

A

## B I L L

TO

Create an offence of unauthorised entry at football matches for which a football banning order can be imposed following conviction.

*Presented by Linsey Farnsworth  
supported by Danny Beales and Mr Jonathan Brash.*

---

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be  
Printed, 16th October 2024.

---

© Parliamentary copyright House of Commons 2024

*This publication may be reproduced under the terms of the Open Parliament Licence, which is published at  
[www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright](http://www.parliament.uk/site-information/copyright)*

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS