

Neoliberalism rules, even in football

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As [the FT notes](#) this morning:

The UK has dropped a requirement for a new men's football regulator to consider "foreign and trade policy" when approving club takeovers, ahead of the bill being introduced in parliament on Thursday.

The change "ensures" the regulator will be "fully independent" of government and industry, the Department for Culture Media and Sport said on Wednesday, following concerns from European football governing body Uefa and fan groups that it would lead to political "interference".

I mean, heavens above that the government should have an interest in the 'national game'. That would never do, would it?

Of course, it should provide the infrastructure that makes the game possible.

And it licences the broadcasters that ensure funds flow to it.

Whilst providing the security that lets it happen.

It also has to regulate stadiums and all that is sold there to make sure that they are safe.

And, come to that it provides the legal structure that makes clubs themselves possible, and then it has to pick up the pieces if everything goes wrong.

But have the state interfere in all of this? That would never do. That might indicate state control, and how could football - which has been utterly debased by neoliberalism to the point where any pretence of there being an actual competition in the Premier League is now farcical - tolerate that? That would be deeply offensive to that neoliberal dogma, and that matters above all else.