

To: John Pool, Chair – The Western League

(Sent by email)

20th February 2023



Dear John,

**Re: Proposed Merger in the South West**

On Friday 17th February 2023, the FA Leagues Committee met to consider the responses from both the South West Peninsula Football League and the Western League.

After careful consideration, the Committee unanimously agreed to accept that the merger would not go ahead and that the proposed Regulations to enact the new structure, be withdrawn from being presented to FA Council.

The Committee were unanimous in NOT supporting the alternative solutions proposed and, in any case, these would require amendments to Regulations which would not be able to go through the due process in time for the 2023-24 playing Season.

In respect of the structural proposals from the Western League, the Committee additionally rejected these proposals on grounds of sporting integrity.

The Committee wished to note through this letter their huge disappointment in the breakdown of the relationship between the two Leagues and individuals thereof.

It is the Clubs who you represent who will feel the greatest impact of this outcome.

As a next stage, the Committee will urgently set up a working group to discuss the matter and will include consultation with key stakeholders in the South West, including your Member Clubs.

Kind Regards,

**Laurence Jones**

Head of National League System

*On behalf of The FA Leagues Committee*

CC: Leagues Committee Members. Cornwall, Devon, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Somerset County FA Reps.