



Meeting with Police Designated Football Officer Pre Lyon and Besiktas away matches 2 October 2026

Name	Role
Holly Foran	Police Designated Football Officer (DFO)
Keith Powell	CPISA European Football Lead
Sue Maisey	CPISA Committee Secretary and note taker

Introduction

CPISA arranged an information gathering meeting with Holly Foran, our police DFO to discuss the upcoming European away fixtures at Lyon and Besiktas. These notes are an overview of the information provided to us.

Lyon

Tickets – It is understood that Palace are still awaiting to hear from Lyon as to whether tickets will have to be collected in a location in Lyon or whether the responsibility for distributing tickets will be forwarded to Palace.

Travel to the Stadium - Lyon's stadium is outside of the city around a 30-40 minute drive. Lyon should be assisting with providing transport information. As the match is an early kick off it is unlikely that Palace supporters will find themselves stranded at the stadium due to local transport ceasing as some may have feared.

Stadium – It seems a Palace Fan Zone will be located at the South End of the Stadium in the Blue Section with a white line being a point of reference. The stadium has netting at the away end. This creates quite an obstructive view for those in the front rows. The away section is sold out. Any Palace supporters identified in the home end are likely to be ejected. There is no drop off facility for bags.

Police - the Lyon police have a view of away supporters, the Metropolitan police delegation, have tried to advise them that the Palace supporters are unlikely to create any great disorder.

Lyon City - is a lovely city, but lacks a central square. It has hotels, restaurants, cafes and shops for people to enjoy.

Istanbul - Besiktas

Tickets - Supporters should note that **it is a legal requirement to have identification**, so supporters should keep passports or other relevant ID with them.

Travel - For those arranging flights there is more than one Istanbul airport. The closest is the main IST airport. Travel to and from the airport for what appears a 30min journey can take 2.5 hours due to excessive traffic on the routes to and from the airport. This should be borne in mind when leaving to catch a flight back to the UK.

Stadium - Besiktas has a modern stadium with steep seating and stairs going down. The entrance systems are the same as at Palace. There is fine netting around the away end. Those with special access requirements will be directed to lifts. There is no designated Fan Zone but the stadium opens at 5pm and the match does not start until 10pm local time. A good atmosphere is expected.

Alcohol and Bags - no alcohol or bags are allowed in the stadium and there is no bag drop off facility.

Mobility - A square close to the Besiktas stadium is a meeting point and is about a 10 minute walk to the stadium, but the walk is down a steep hill, and this may be difficult for those with any mobility or breathing issues particularly when leaving the stadium and climbing the steep hill.

Official Authorities - including the police are well organised in Istanbul and keen to look after supporters. Besiktas have passionate fans but it is not expected that they will attack opposition supporters.

Istanbul - has a lively atmosphere, with places of interest, bars and restaurants. The food is cheap but alcohol is expensive. Supporters should take care walking. Traffic does not necessarily adhere to rules of the road, and vehicles may mount pavements.

Both Matches

Metropolitan Police - will have a Head of Delegation, the DFO (Holly Fornan) and another officer present for both the matches, although they have no jurisdiction they are able to advise.

CPFC - will have staff attending. There will also be a contingent of CPFC stewards, as happens at domestic away matches.