

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPEAL BOARD OF THE FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION

BETWEEN

STAFFORD TOWN FC

Appellant

and

THE FA LEAGUES COMMITTEE

Respondent

DECISION AND WRITTEN REASONS OF THE APPEAL BOARD

1. The Appeal Board conducted a hearing on Tuesday, 7 June 2022, to determine an appeal by the Appellant against a decision of the Respondent, dated 12 May 2022.
2. This hearing was conducted by Correspondence.
3. The Appeal Board consisted of Mr Paul Tompkins (Chairperson), Mr Robert Purkiss MBE, and Mr Glenn Moulton.
4. Mr Conrad Gibbons, the Judicial Services Officer, acted as Secretary to the Appeal Board.

The Hearing

5. The Respondent, on 12 May 2022, notified the Appellant that their application to be laterally moved from the North West Counties League Division One (South) to the Midland Football League Division One for the 2022/23 season was declined.
6. The Appeal Board, having taken into account the submissions of the parties and having given the Appeal Bundle careful consideration, noted the following.
7. The Appeal Board noted that the Appellant was appealing on the following ground:
 - a. Came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come.

8. The Appeal Board dismissed the appeal on this ground.
9. The Appeal Board reached this decision considering the following:
 - a. The following is a summary of the primary considerations of the Appeal Board, however the absence in these reasons of any particular point, or submission, should not imply that the Appeal Board did not take such point, or submission, into consideration when it considered the matter and reached its findings.
 - b. The Appeal Board considered the differences of distance and travelling times raised by the Appellant made in their submissions and found that the differences between the Leagues, by their own submission, amounted to a small difference.
 - c. The Respondent, in reaching their decision, were found to have applied the Regulations and principles applicable for this decision correctly and the outcome that was made was not found to be an unreasonable decision to which no reasonable such body could have come. The remit of the Appeal Board is to consider whether the decision of the Respondent was so unreasonable that no reasonable such body could have come to it. The Appellant ultimately failed to satisfy this high hurdle.
 - d. The Appeal Board also considered if there was an alternative decision that could reasonably have been made by the Respondent which could deem the original decision unreasonable. The Appeal Board were unanimous that there was not a reasonable alternative decision which would cause the original decision to be unreasonable.
10. The Appeal Board considered the matter of costs and decided that there would be no order as to costs.
11. The Appeal Board order that the appeal fee be forfeited.
12. The Appeal Board's decision is final and binding.

Paul Tompkins
Glenn Moulton
Robert Purkiss MBE

10 June 2022