

Press Release

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Danny Ings compensation case

Couchmans advises Burnley FC in largest compensation award for out of contract player in history of professional football

International specialist and award-winning sports law firm Couchmans LLP is delighted to have advised Burnley FC in its recent claim for compensation from Liverpool FC before the Professional Football Compensation Committee.

Dan Lowen, Head of Regulatory at Couchmans LLP, represented Burnley FC in the claim in respect of the training and development of Danny Ings.

England international Ings moved from Burnley to Liverpool last summer, following the expiry of his contract. Under the League's rules, a club signing an out-of-contract player is required to pay compensation to the former club for the training and development of the player if he is under the age of 24. However, a tribunal decision was required once the two clubs failed to agree a compensation figure for the centre-forward.

The tribunal's award, handed down on Thursday 28th April 2016, is the largest compensation award for an out-of-contract player in the history of professional football.

Commenting on the award, **Dan Lowen** said:

"Today's result is a fair and accurate reflection of the enormous contribution Burnley FC has made in helping develop and nurture one of the brightest young talents in the Premier League. The £6.5m up front sum awarded by the Professional Football Compensation Committee – £3m more than the previous highest award (for Daniel Sturridge) – is the highest compensation sum ever awarded in respect of an out of contract player and recognises that Danny Ings is one of the top young English centre-forwards in English football. The award could rise to a total of £8m based on appearances for Liverpool and also grants Burnley a sell-on fee entitlement.

"After 4 years at Burnley, Danny Ings joined Liverpool FC in July 2015 following the expiry of his contract. As he was under the age of 24, Burnley was entitled to compensation for his training and development during his time at the club. Both clubs made detailed submissions to the PFCC on the criteria to be taken into account in determining the compensation payable, including the age of the player, the contracts offered to him by both his training and new club, his playing record, substantiated interest shown by other clubs and the costs incurred by both clubs in the training and development of players generally."

Chief Executive of Burnley FC, David Baldwin said:

"This claim was unprecedented. To our knowledge, the PFCC has never been asked to consider the length of submissions and volume of evidence that was put before it on this matter. We are immensely grateful to our lawyer, Dan Lowen, for his work in representing the club and ensuring that we received a ground-breaking award which properly recognises our role in producing a truly top class player."

ENDS

Dan Lowen is available for comment and interview.

Please contact Peter Barrett (pbarrett@infinitespada.com) or Tal Donahue (tdonahue@infinitespada.com) on 020 7269 1430 or 07912 745841.

Note to Editors

Couchmans is the UK's leading and award-winning specialist sports law firm (as ranked by the independent legal directories), providing advice to clients operating in the sports industry around the world. The firm serves many of the most prestigious operators in sport, who benefit from an unrivalled collective experience and highly commercial approach.

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