

Report cites five English soccer teams

by UPI

LONDON - A report on player transfers in England's Premier League alleges irregularities involving five soccer clubs.

John Stevens, a former Metropolitan police chief who heads Quest, an investigative company, found no evidence of illegal payments, The Telegraph reported. But in his report, which will be forwarded to soccer's international governing body, FIFA, he cited Graeme Souness, former Newcastle manager, and Sam Allardyce, who is replacing Souness after managing the Bolton Wanderers.

Stevens refused to sign off on transfers involving Chelsea, Newcastle, Bolton, Middlesbrough and Portsmouth. He also named 15 agents, including one of the most prominent, Pina Zahavi.

Souness, the report said, gave evidence in some places inconsistent with that given by the son of the Newcastle owner.

"I cannot understand why my name features in this report," Souness said to The Telegraph. "I volunteered full information to Quest as a witness and I have heard nothing further from them."

Allardyce's son is a former agent, and the report said that created a potential conflict of interest.

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