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UK Kids Hit By World Cup Ticket Scam

Monday June 19, 12:17 PM



Hundreds of schoolchildren suffered World Cup heartache after falling foul of a "callous" ticket scam. About 350 youngsters, aged 11 to 15 from across the UK, were due to watch games in Germany. Their match tickets should have been part of a £410-a-head tour but never materialised.

A group of 23 boys from Mayville High School, Portsmouth, travelled to Cologne to see the Czech Republic play Ghana.

Headteacher Linda Owens said the pupils were "devastated".

Among them was Joshua

Hunter, 12, who said: "I was really annoyed. I can't believe someone would do that to children.

"We had seen the World Cup on TV and had been talking about this with friends before going and we had been waiting a long time for this trip. It was so disappointing."

Around 30 boys from Portchester Boys School in Bournemouth, Dorset, had hoped to see Portugal against Iran in Frankfurt..

Headteacher Christopher Bradey said: "They were not able to go to the match as it appears the tickets were from a doubtful source."

Tour company Activ4, which paid a supplier for the tickets, said police in the UK and Germany were notified.

A spokesman added: "It is with great regret that our business and therefore our customers have been made victim of an international ticket scam.

"Activ4 is outraged by this callous act of fraud and will continue to offer the police our full co-operation in their respective investigations."

FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren told the Press Association: "This is absolutely regrettable for the young kids, because they have been deprived of a great opportunity to watch World Cup action.

"But unfortunately the incident confirms what Fifa and the local organising committee have been warning against from the start, that only tickets from official sources should be acquired and not other sources of a dubious nature.




"Unfortunately it is youngsters who are paying a high price for that."



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