2017 JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

From	The FIA Stewards of the Meeting	**Document**	34
To	The Team Manager, Sahara Force India F1 Team	**Date**	07 October 2017
		Time	18:04

The Stewards, having received a report from the Race Director, summoned (documents 31 & 32) the drivers and team representatives, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

No / Driver   11 - Sergio Perez

Competitor   Sahara Force India F1 Team

Time   15:09

Session   Qualifying

Fact   Car 11 impeded car 18 from turns 16 to 18.

Offence   Alleged breach of Article 31.6 of the FIA Formula One Sporting Regulations.

Decision   No Further Action.

Reason   The Stewards examined multiple angles of video evidence, including CCTV not available on the broadcast and heard from Lance Stroll, the driver of car 18, Sergio Perez, the driver of car 11 and the team representatives.

Throughout qualifying cars were slowing considerably entering Turn 16 in order to achieve a gap to the cars in front of them. This created an accordion affect when several cars were doing this in succession. This contributed to the incident between Car 11 and Car 18.

Sergio Perez was setting up for a fast lap behind several cars ahead of him. Pierre Gasly was behind Perez, and approaching Turn 16 passed Perez, which he was entitled to do. The interaction with Gasly caused Perez to be at the apex of Turn 17 at the moment that Lance Stroll, who was on a fast lap, also reached Turn 17. After Gasly passed Turn 17 he was told by this team to pit.

Art 31.6 prohibits "unnecessarily" impeding. Both drivers agreed in the hearing that had there not been the interaction of the other cars, Perez would not have been in the position he was and that the situation changed significantly and unavoidably when Gasly passed Perez, and therefore the Stewards concluded that while Perez certainly impeded Stroll, he did not unnecessarily impede Stroll and therefore take No Further Action.

Tim Mayer   **Nish Shetty**

Tom Kristensen   **Takashi Mitarashi**

The FIA Stewards of the Meeting