



Draft Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill

September 2007

Introduction

The Federation of Small Businesses is Scotland's largest direct-member business organisation, representing over 19,000 members. The FSB campaigns for an economic and social environment which allows small businesses to prosper.

FSB Scotland welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill consultation process. We are confident that a successful bid will bring major benefits to Scotland generally, and the small business community in particular as it could play a role in the construction of venues and other necessary infrastructure, as well as providing tourism facilities and essential business services, if given the opportunity. In our response, we have focused our comments on the issues of most concern to our members.

Issues

1. Ambush Marketing

FSB Scotland supports the desire to introduce legislation at the earliest possible opportunity to prohibit "ambush marketing", particularly if this can strengthen Scotland's bid to host the Games. In addition, legitimate businesses will invest to produce official Commonwealth Games merchandise and every effort should be made to support and protect the suppliers and distributors of such official merchandise. If the economic potential of the Games to Scotland is to be maximised, there must also be discussion in the future on the steps which could be taken to ensure that small Scottish businesses are given the opportunity to benefit from the opportunities which the Games can provide.

2. Transport

It is vitally important for the smooth running of the Games that the correct transport infrastructure is in place and we support the production of a Games Transport Plan, but would urge that businesses in any potentially affected area be consulted in its preparation. Clearly, public transport is a major component in this, but investment is also required in upgrading the road network in the vicinity of the Games sites and connections to major arterial routes and entry points. Traffic congestion, parking and the lack/cost of public transport

continue to be key issues for our members. If Glasgow is successful in its bid, an improved transport infrastructure would be an excellent legacy following the Games which would aid and assist small businesses in the future.

3. Pre Regulatory Impact Assessment

The consultation document states that both the Ambush Marketing Provisions and the Other Provisions section are likely to have an impact on small firms. 98% of Scotland's businesses can be classified as small firms and, as we noted earlier, the full potential of the Games to the Scottish economy will only be achieved if these small businesses are able to compete for the business opportunities provided by the Games. We recognise that this draft is at an early stage, but would urge that much more consideration be given to the impact on small firms, perhaps drawing on experience from elsewhere in recent years and examples of how any negative impacts can be addressed, such as establishing a single point of contact for opportunities for business. The FSB in London is currently supporting and contributing to efforts being made to ensure small businesses can benefit from the opportunities offered by the Olympic Games and we would welcome the opportunity to contribute to discussions on this issue in Scotland, if the bid is successful. Finally, we would seek assurances in the RIA that funding which would normally be used to provide support for small businesses will not be diverted for additional support for the Commonwealth Games.

For further information on any of the points raised in this submission please contact Eileen Calveley, Policy Officer, on Eileen.calveley@fsb.org.uk or Tel: 0141 221 0775