



ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS IN SCOTLAND

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Your Ref:

Our Ref: 0415/SMG/08

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Pam Whittle
Public Health & Wellbeing Directorate
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By email pam.whittle@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Mrs Whittle

GLASGOW 2014 COMMONWEALTH GAMES – DELIVERING A LASTING LEGACY

I refer to your correspondence dated 15 February 2008, in connection with the above subject, which has been considered by the Operational Policing Business Area, and can now offer the following by way of comment.

Members note that the level of support and enthusiasm within the communities of Scotland for the Commonwealth Games during the bid phase was encouraging and is an indicator of the potential for bringing about positive change to our communities. The police service should be an active and willing participant throughout the build up to the games and beyond, working closely with Community Planning partnerships.

The consultation paper covers the five key strategic objectives of the Scottish Government and for the purposes of this response members have concentrated on the section 'Safer and Stronger', which has most relevance to the police. Notwithstanding, considering the extent of partnership working the police are currently involved in, some comments have been made on the wider document.

The ability to attract visiting teams to use Scotland as their training bases has obvious benefits to local communities however there may also be an impact on the local community in terms of security requirements. This will need to be assessed on an individual basis and be determined by the visiting country's profile. Members suggest that there is close co-operation between the organising committee, the relevant local authority and the police to ensure all teams can prepare for the event in a safe and secure environment. (page 15)

Members suggest that the issue of an integrated ticketing system for the transport network should take cognisance of the impact that it may have on the security strategy, particularly if it links in with tickets for games venues. (page 18)

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Members also suggest that the issue of the night time economy and the potential increase in the number of premises providing an alternative to the consumption of alcohol may be of concern. This should be considered both in terms of the licensing legislation and the impact it may have on the level of revellers who remain within Glasgow city centre in the early hours of the morning. (page 35)

The positioning of Scotland as a country to visit (page 18), work, study (page 20) and locate international business (page 19) is dependent on a number of key factors including a confidence in Scotland having a safe and secure environment. The police will need to work closely with local authorities and other agencies to promote Scotland as an ideal destination whether as a student, tourist, employee or employer.

The police and other emergency services should continue to work closely with the organisers of all the major festivals and events within Scotland to enhance Scotland's reputation of producing world class events (page 17), including those associated with the Year of the Homecoming in 2009. (page 20)

The 2014 games will provide an opportunity to develop the capacity and skills of the private security industry within Scotland and will provide a level of experience that will enhance the reputation of the industry within the United Kingdom and internationally. (page 21)

Encouragement should be given to the organisers of other multi sport events to visit Scotland and observe the planning and delivery of the games, providing an opportunity to showcase the skills and experience of not only security, but across all functional areas. (pages 25 and 28).

Members suggest that the police should continue to play an active role in working with young people within our communities and participation in sport can be particularly positive in their development and engagement within the wider community network. An example of this is Operation Reclaim, which has operated successfully in the north of Glasgow and has used sport to engage young people from all parts of the community. This project has been extremely successful and has enjoyed high levels of support from partner agencies. The games will also assist in developing the potential for volunteering and mentoring within our local communities. (page 25)

SAFER AND STRONGER SECTION PAGES 38—45

It can be anticipated that the 2014 Commonwealth Games will provide an opportunity to influence the behaviour of communities and have a positive impact on the levels of crime in Scotland, particularly in areas of multiple deprivation.

Members suggest that any objectives and targets that are set within the paper are developed using the SMART principles. It is also worthy of consideration that many of these benefits and legacies will not be realised until well after the conclusion of the games in August 2014 and mechanisms must be in place to measure the legacy benefits over the longer term.

Members suggest the following specific comments regarding the content of this section.

The transformation and regeneration of the East End of Glasgow will no doubt lead to many new residents to the area. However, this new community must be fully integrated with the existing community to ensure that services and amenities are available to all sections of the community. (page 40)

With the construction of the athletes village and other venues in the East End of Glasgow, the police should develop their partnership with the Security Industry Authority to mitigate the risk of infiltration by organised crime groups. (page 40)

It is essential, with the regeneration of the east end and the construction of the athletes village, that the necessary infrastructure is also in place e.g. Health Centre, Nursery, Schools, Social Services. (page 40)

It is important that with any new transport developments, such as the M74 and the East End Regeneration Route, that every effort is made to engage with those members of the community who have a perceived grievance with these developments in order to minimise the potential disruption they may cause. (page 41)

It would be a positive step to ensure that members of the local black and minority ethnic community are fully engaged with all aspects of the games, ensuring community cohesion and reducing the potential radicalisation of vulnerable persons within the community.

To reduce the levels of anti social behaviour and increase the confidence of the community, it is essential that the police and other agencies work together to influence the behaviour of those persons who give cause for concern. Through access to available funding streams and a strong partnership approach, diversionary schemes can continue to be developed to encourage behavioural change. This may assist in increasing civic pride within the community, reducing the crime rate, the fear of crime and anti social behaviour. (page 42)

There will have to be clear methodology of how the public perception of the general crime rate is measured before and after the games in order that evidence of success can be validated. (page 42)

The avoidance of employment of individuals with unacceptable previous convictions at games related venues will be dependent on a robust vetting, validation and accreditation process. Clear guidelines will need to be established to determine what level of criminality will be acceptable, ensuring the overall security of the venues are not compromised and this will be based on risk assessment methodology. (page 42)

The Scottish police service already provide a world class service in the delivery of major events and enjoy an international reputation that was recognised in the CGF Evaluation Commission report. The games provide an opportunity to further enhance this reputation both within the UK and internationally. It is important for the police to have a clear succession plan to ensure the knowledge and skills gained from hosting an event of this scale is captured and available to shape future event planning. (page 44)

It is important that the police share the knowledge of the planning and delivery of the games security operation. However, this should not be limited to commonwealth countries; it should be available to the wider security community. There is an opportunity to deliver this during the games observer programme, however, the sharing of this knowledge will be an ongoing process. (page 44)

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has developed a 10 year strategic plan, which has identified violence as a public health issue. The consultation paper has suggested that the 2014 games are used as a focus of the work by the VRU, however this has not been integrated within the strategic plan. There is an opportunity within the Secondary Prevention strand of the strategy to use the 2014 games as a catalyst to divert those at risk of violent behaviour and becoming a victim from this outcome. (page 45)

Whilst the Glasgow 2014 games in themselves will not reduce violent crime, members suggest that through a partnership approach, the games along with ongoing initiatives may lead to a change in behaviour that may have an impact on the levels of violence. However, in terms of sustainability, it will be the VRU's 10 year strategy that will bring about the required change. (page 45)

Members further suggest that all new 2014 facilities, including public realm spaces, should align to the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design and wherever possible achieve the 'Secured by Design' standard. All new facilities should be subject to a joint ALO/CTSA assessment to 'target harden' the venues and enhance the safety and security of the venues from all threats. (page 45)

Notwithstanding, it is not advisable to state that those residents living within accommodation formerly used as the athletes village will experience lower crime and victimisation rates compared with national averages. Living circumstances are subject of a range of variables and are not within the scope of the legacy paper accordingly, such comment should be avoided. (page 45)

I trust that the foregoing is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harry Bunch', with a long, sweeping tail extending to the right.

Harry Bunch
General Secretary