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7th May 2008

Glasgow 2014
Delivering a Lasting Legacy for Scotland
Consultation Paper
Scottish Government
Area 2-F(S)
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Dear Sir or Madam

**Glasgow 2014 - Delivering a Lasting Legacy for Scotland
Consultation Paper**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the aforementioned consultation exercise. The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) is the UK's largest representative body for sporting shooting with over 127,000 members, some 10,000 of whom reside in Scotland. Our expertise in the field of shooting sports is widely recognised. Although primarily representing live-quarry shooting, many of our members are also involved in target shooting. We will restrict our comments solely to the shooting events.

We are particularly pleased that shooting has been included as one of the sports for the 2014 games. Scotland has a very good record of Commonwealth success in the shooting disciplines and it is fitting that our sportsmen and women should have the chance to excel on their home territory.

We don't, however, believe that the proposals for the shooting sports show either shooting or Scotland in a good light. Some of the proposals for the shooting disciplines also make a mockery of some of the wider-ranging aspirations of the games - particularly their green credentials. To have the full bore and clay target shooting events at Barry Buddon in Angus seems pointless in the extreme. These are Glasgow's games and it is surely wrong to locate these disciplines so far from the host city. Such a distant location marginalises these disciplines and also undermines the environmentally-friendly credentials of the games.

We accept that Barry Buddon was used in 1986, but we do not believe that there is significant legacy to the general public in spending some £540,000 on entirely temporary works. If the total expenditure at this venue is entirely on temporary works (as appears to be the case from the Candidate City Files), how is any public benefit achieved? Even if the works were permanent, the main beneficiary of the investment would be the MOD. Some civilian use of the facility does occur, but there would still be extremely limited public benefit even in the best case scenario.

The Commonwealth Games Federation requires a capacity of 1,000 for the full bore shooting event, yet the planned capacity is a mere 200. We cannot tell if this is an

intentional step to play down shooting sports in Scotland or whether it is a by-product of locating these disciplines so far from the nucleus of the games.

The pistol, small bore rifle and air rifle events are to be held at the Strathclyde Police Training facility at Jackton. This is preferable to the choice of Barry Buddon, but is, we suspect, driven by the entirely spurious belief that shooting events can only safely be conducted on MOD or other state controlled properties. This is an entirely false assumption and these games have the opportunity to present the shooting sports for exactly what they are – safe, well-structured, skilful sports.

The choice of Jackton also leaves Glasgow 2014 far from meeting Commonwealth Games Federation spectator capacity figures – a planned 3 x 200 instead of the minimum CGF requirement of 3 x 1,000. The site at Jackton simply cannot cope with the required numbers, so why persist with an unsuitable site?

The expenditure at Jackton is also a little puzzling. The disciplines to be housed there are attracting costs of some £1.74 million, yet the permanent works element of this is a mere £300,000. This does rather confirm rumours in the shooting community that any facility for shooting events at Jackton will be purely temporary. Again, the choice of a state controlled facility means that there will be either very little or no public benefit from the games. Indeed, it would appear that even Strathclyde Police are only going to receive the permanent benefit of less than 1/6th of the total expenditure at the site.

We strongly believe that the proposals do a great disservice to shooting sports in Scotland. We are preventing large scale audience participation in our choice of venues and, most importantly in the context of this consultation, not leaving any legacy for the people of Scotland. The £2.28 million being spent on the shooting sports would be sufficient to provide a legacy to shooting sports in the central belt. An all-new centre of excellence could be established that would allow greater public participation in these disciplines in future and provide a central training facility for future competitors in these disciplines at all levels.

We are aware that at least two commercial enterprises have expressed interest in hosting the clay shooting disciplines. We can understand the difficulty in the games being seen to aid commercial enterprises in this way and we have decided to remain neutral with regard to these options. However, we do not believe that sufficient consideration was given to the use of existing facilities at Dechmont. We believe that this would provide an excellent compromise – it is close to Glasgow yet remains part of the Defence Estate. There is, as we have previously stated, the opportunity to re-develop a facility that is easily accessible to over 1/5th of the population of Scotland and to create a centre of excellence for shooting sports that leaves a lasting legacy for the sport.

We would be happy to discuss any aspect of this response in greater detail if that was deemed appropriate.

Yours faithfully

JAMES SCOTT

Press & Policy Officer, Scotland