



The Scottish Parliament

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing
The Scottish Government
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

30 April 2008

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION ON THE 2014 COMMONWEALTH GAMES: DELIVERING A LASTING LEGACY FOR SCOTLAND

I refer to your letter of 15 February 2008 regarding the Scottish Government's consultation on the 2014 Commonwealth Games and how these might deliver a lasting legacy for Scotland. The Public Petitions Committee considered this at its meetings on 15 and 29 April and I hope that the following is useful to you.

The Committee has considered a number of petitions on the investment in, and provision of, local sport and leisure facilities. Indeed, as recently as our meeting on 18 March 2008, we considered three petitions—

PE966: *Calling on the Scottish Parliament to consider and debate the lack of investment in swimming pools in Scotland, what action is being taken to address the SportsScotland 'Ticking Time Bomb' report published in 2000 and how the goal to "increase and maintain the proportion of physically active people in Scotland" is being met.*

PE990: *Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to review the provision of community leisure facilities across Scotland, given for example the proposed closure of Ladywood and Queensway Community Leisure Centres and the Jackson Street Community Learning Centre facilities in Penicuik.*

PE1041: *Calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Executive to take the necessary steps to ensure that facilities and pitches used by all community-based sports clubs are of a standard befitting a leading European nation.*

**Public Petitions Committee, TG.01, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh,
EH99 1SP**

Tel: 0131 348 5186, Fax: 0131 348 5088, RNID Tynetalk: 18001 0131 348 5186

fergus.cochrane@scottish.parliament.uk

www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/index.htm

on this broad issue. In previous consideration of these petitions, we had written to the Scottish Government inviting responses to a number of issues including what impact the 2014 Games would have in improving the physical infrastructure and facilities at a local level. We were aware of the reports from sportscotland's [National Audit of Sports Facilities](#) (2006) and [The Ticking Time Bomb](#) (2000) which refer to the capital cost of upgrading facilities to an acceptable level. In respect of these three particular petitions, at the [18 March](#) meeting we agreed to refer them to the Health and Sport Committee to take forward as part of its current [pathways into sport inquiry](#).

Delivering a lasting legacy from these Games is therefore a matter that we have previously raised with the Scottish Government. Such a legacy can be achieved through the provision of the necessary capital investment in the infrastructure to host successful Games. However, maximising benefits is not simply about building stadia and other facilities and we noted that you have touched on this in your consultation paper where you set a series of questions on the opportunity for the Games to bring about long term benefits in terms of the environment, health, education, crime, anti-social behaviour etc. These are important and we will all be interested in how policy supports this.

Therefore, in terms of the work of the Public Petitions Committee, we recognise that there may be petitions that will have a direct relevance to the lasting legacy of the Games and, as I say, not just in terms of facilities. Therefore, we would invite the Scottish Government, in consideration of future petitions, to reflect carefully on whether there is a 'Games dimension' to the petition and the issues it raises and, if so, that it should reflect this in its response back to the Committee. We hope that the Scottish Government's response would then assist us in taking petitions forward in a constructive manner.

A further point raised by the Committee in its discussion on 15 April 2008 was the financial impact of the Games on other budgets. Will there be dedicated revenue allocations for all aspects of hosting the Games? What assurance will the Scottish Government give that existing funding streams and allocations across all budgets will not be adversely affected by the redirecting of funding to the capital and running costs of the Games? What assurance will the Scottish Government give that there will be no short or long term impact on such funding streams?

The Committee of course is committed to the desire for a successful Games, not just in terms of the period when they are being held, but also in the long term thereafter. We hope that the points we raise in this letter are useful to you in taking that collective aim forward.

Yours sincerely

Frank McAveety

Frank McAveety MSP
Convener of the Public Petitions Committee