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Convener
Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture
Committee
Scottish Parliament

Via email: ceeac.committee@parliament.scot

5 June 2025

Dear Convener

UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill – Follow-up Information

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee on 8 May 2025 to discuss the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill. I appreciated the thoughtful and constructive engagement from members and welcome the opportunity to provide further clarity on a number of points raised during the session.

As committed, I am writing to follow up on three specific areas:

1. Police Powers and Enforcement Authority

We undertook to review the powers of entry and search included in the bill - particularly those that may be exercised without a warrant - and to confirm how these compare with existing police powers and previous legislation, such as the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Act 2020.

As set out in the Policy Memorandum for the Bill, ability to take quick action is a requirement of UEFA for certain areas of commercial rights protection. The powers set out in the current bill are consistent with those included in the [UEFA European Championship \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#). In reviewing comparable legislation, we have identified several examples across Acts of the Scottish Parliament where constables - or, in some cases, other enforcement officers - are granted powers to enter premises without a warrant or prior permission. These powers are typically conferred for the purpose of detecting or investigating specific statutory offences.

In each of these cases, the offences in question do not relate to matters of life and death. Rather, the powers are framed to allow entry without a warrant only in circumstances where urgency is a factor - specifically, where waiting to obtain a warrant could frustrate enforcement action. This is broadly aligned with the approach taken in section 24(2)(b) of the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill.

Examples of such provisions include:

Section 138 of the [Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#)

Section 20 of the [Aquaculture and Fisheries \(Scotland\) Act 2013](#)

Section 22 of the [Air Weapons and Licensing \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#)

Paragraph 5 of schedule 1 of the [Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses \(Scotland\) Act 2018](#)

Paragraph 4 of schedule 2 of the [Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles \(Scotland\) Act 2022](#)

Paragraph 5 of the schedule of the [Hunting with Dogs \(Scotland\) Act 2023](#)

Paragraph 6 of the schedule of the [Wildlife Management and Muirburn \(Scotland\) Act 2024](#)

2. Online Ticket Touting Enforcement

The committee raised questions about how online ticket touting will be addressed, particularly given the territorial limitations of the proposed legislation. We have been in discussion with Police Scotland on this matter.

Police Scotland will respond to the committee directly on this issue, and we hope their input will provide further clarity on how online ticket touting will be managed in practice.

3. Coordination with Other Host Governments

During the session, members asked about the legislative approaches being taken by other host nations in relation to ticket touting and related enforcement. We agreed to follow up with our counterparts in the UK, Welsh, Northern Irish and Irish governments to ask what they can share with the committee at this stage about current plans and any relevant legislative developments.

In response, the UK Government has indicated that it is still working through how best to deliver UEFA's requirements, including in relation to extra-territorial jurisdiction, taking into account the approach taken in previous sporting event legislation and recent legislation relating to the provision of online services. UK Government continue to work collaboratively with Government partners as this develops.

The Welsh Government has no plans to introduce its own primary legislation but will continue to work collaboratively with the UK Government and to ensure that UEFA's requirements are met.

The Northern Ireland Executive has indicated it is not currently considering bringing forward specific legislation, but will continue to work with the UK Government as required, to ensure any commitments under their control are met.

The Government of Ireland has indicated that in Ireland, the Sale of Tickets (Cultural, Entertainment, Recreational and Sporting Events) Act 2021 (the Act) prohibits the sale or advertising for sale of tickets or ticket packages for a price exceeding their original sale price for events taking place in designated venues and for designated events. The Act sets out the enforcement powers of An Garda Síochána in relation to entry and search as well as the arrest without warrant of those breaching Section 15 of the Act. This legislation was enacted with a particular focus on UEFA EURO 2020 which was upcoming at the time and gave specific mention to that event. The provisions of the Act do not apply outside of Ireland.

It should be noted that in Ireland an exemption applies where advertising for sale of a ticket or a ticket package is by or on behalf of a charitable organisation or an amateur sports club

for a relevant event where the sale of that ticket or ticket package has been approved by an event organiser, and the proceeds of the sale are used only for the purpose of funding the activities of the charitable organisation or amateur sports club.

The Government of Ireland will continue to work with Government partners to ensure that the commitments made to UEFA by Government are met.

I hope this information is helpful to the committee in its ongoing scrutiny of the bill. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if any further clarification or assistance is required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RMB', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that ends in a small upward curve.

RACHAEL MCKECHNIE
Deputy Director, Major Events