

CULTURE, TOURISM, EUROPE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill

SUBMISSION FROM THE SCOTTISH FA AND HAMPDEN PARK LTD.

The Scottish FA and Hampden Park Ltd. welcome the opportunity to respond to this call for evidence by the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee of the Scottish Parliament in light of its appointment to conduct scrutiny of the UEFA Championship (Scotland) Bill (the “Bill”), as introduced on 24 September 2019.

For all host cities of UEFA EURO 2020, UEFA has consistent requirements in terms of its rights protection programme for sponsors. As members of the Local Organising Structure (LOS) of UEFA EURO 2020 Glasgow, the Scottish FA and Hampden Park Ltd have entered into an unconditional and irrevocable contractual agreement with UEFA (in accordance with the binding terms and conditions of the presiding agreements) which stipulates requirements and responsibilities including commercial rights protection, ticket touting, advertising and street trading within the event zones. Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council and VisitScotland are also members of the LOS for UEFA EURO 2020 Glasgow.

For the Scottish FA and Hampden Park Ltd, the areas required to be protected by the scope of the Bill are: the National Stadium Hampden Park, its commercial perimeter and the outer security perimeter. This includes an extended area beyond that which is normally adopted for regular matches at the stadium, i.e. the Hangingshaw area and the “park and ride” area at Aitkenhead Road.

The Scottish FA and Hampden Park Ltd are confident the Bill and subsequent Act will be a deterrent against ticket touting (online and in person), whilst supporting fair access to tickets for fans and helping to ensure public confidence in the event. It is appreciated that as a consequence of the implementation of the extended outer security perimeter that some licensed street traders will be displaced. The opportunity of hosting a global tournament, one deemed to be the third largest sporting event in the world, presents four matches as an addition to the current, busy roster of events at which the licensed street traders can legally trade. As we endeavour to continue to fulfil our requirements to deliver the event according to our contractual obligations, we are reassured and satisfied by the provisions made within the Bill in terms of relocation of current licensed street traders. With the expected numbers of local people, incoming visitors and a global audience engaging with this event, we hope that everyone will embrace the world class set up around the National Stadium and the City, and be conscious that whilst it may not be ‘business as usual’ for all, this special event will bring much positive attention and benefits.

We welcome and support the Bill as part of the delivery of UEFA EURO 2020, but also recognise that its delivery may align with the future aspirations of Glasgow and Scotland relative to the securing of future major and mega events.