

CULTURE, TOURISM, EUROPE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill

SUBMISSION FROM GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL

1. INTRODUCTION

Following introduction of the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill on 24 September 2019, I am pleased to provide an update and further information on Glasgow City Council's approach to engagement and enforcement of the Bill, subject to parliamentary approval.

2. ENGAGEMENT WITH TRADERS, BUSINESSES AND MEDIA OWNERS

Glasgow City Council and Scottish Government have been working together to identify businesses, organisations and individuals that will potentially be impacted by the implementation of the Bill in each of the three event zones – Hampden Park, George Square and Merchant City.

This process established that mainly street traders, media owners and other businesses based in the event zones which have external advertising (for example bars and restaurants) could be expected to be affected by the Bill.

Prior to the publication of the Bill, Scottish Government, Hampden Park Limited and Glasgow City Council held drop in sessions on 29 and 30 August. The focus was to engage with those potentially affected to understand any concerns they may have and any changes to the approach in the Bill that may be possible to respond to these. These sessions were advertised through a number of channels including letters to 950 businesses and 107 traders as well as email communications to 13 media inventory owners and eight trade bodies such as Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses for distribution to their members.

Individual meetings were offered to businesses that could not attend the drop in sessions.

3. ALTERNATIVE TRADING ARRANGEMENTS

As per Section 9 of the Bill, Glasgow City Council will work with traders affected by the Hampden Park event zone to offer alternative trading arrangements in the city during the time the event zone is in operation. This commitment is stronger than the duty in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games Act which stated that the local authority had to work with existing traders.

Traders will still be required to comply with the licensing application process should they wish to trade in an alternative location. However the fee that would usually be associated with applying for a temporary trading licence (£62) will be waived by Glasgow City Council and these applications will be prioritised for processing.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS

As there will be a relatively short time period between the Bill completing its Parliamentary process and the offences coming into force, Glasgow City Council is currently developing measures to increase awareness of the Bill and Regulations, for example publishing guidance, use of local media, use of existing business communications and offering meetings with businesses to discuss the restrictions. The timeline for these measures will be progressed concurrently with the Bill's Parliamentary process and in advance of the restrictions coming into force.

5. ENFORCEMENT APPROACH

The Bill covers fewer matters than the Commonwealth Games (Scotland) Act 2008, the most recent primary legislation for a major event in Scotland. Therefore a proportionate approach is proposed for EURO 2020 given the comparative scale of the event. The Bill seeks to balance providing reassurance to UEFA and its sponsors that commercial rights have been protected in key areas while minimising the impact on local businesses and allowing them to benefit from the economic opportunity that EURO 2020 represents.

Although the approach will be proportionate to the scale of the event, the Bill is likely to have an impact on Glasgow City Council's Trading Standards Team resources and potentially a minor impact on other local authorities if additional enforcement officers are required to be seconded to Glasgow during the Tournament.

The preparation of illustrative regulations is underway which will provide an indication of how the secondary powers contained within the Bill will be used. The full scope of these regulations needs to be determined and is crucial in order to define the required enforcement resource for the Tournament. It is anticipated that additional provision will be required to support Glasgow City Council's Trading Standards Team during the Championship period.

6. GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL'S TRADING STANDARDS

Glasgow City Council's Trading Standards Officers are well experienced in enforcement but will receive additional training to the same quality and standard of that delivered for the

Commonwealth Games Act. The existing training materials will be updated and refreshed to incorporate the differences in both the primary and secondary legislation. The training approach will reinforce that formal enforcement action would be a last resort and the team will endeavour to encourage compliance rather than taking formal action such as the reporting of offences to the Procurator Fiscal.

Neil Coltart, Group Manager for Glasgow City Council's Trading Standards, will direct this. Neil's knowledge and experience of enforcement is vast and was responsible for overseeing the implementation and delivery for the Commonwealth Games 2014.

The Trading Standards Team works closely with Police Scotland on a regular basis and across a large number of events including the Commonwealth Games 2014, European Championships 2018 as well as TRNSMT and other concerts / sporting events. There have been very few issues during these operations and those that have occurred were discussed and resolved promptly. It is the intention that operational planning meetings would be established between the teams for EURO 2020 and take place frequently during the implementation of legislation and throughout the Tournament.