



AUDIT AND REVIEW OF OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC SAFETY AND SECURITY PLANNING SUMMARY

PLANNING FOR A SAFE AND SECURE LONDON 2012

THE LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

The London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will be the largest sporting event in UK history. Opening on 27 July and going right through to 9 September, the Games will see more than 10 million tickets sold and more than 14,000 athletes from 205 countries competing at venues in London and across the UK.

All this will take place alongside regular events such as Wimbledon and the Notting Hill Carnival, as well as celebrations for Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

It will involve the biggest peacetime security operation ever undertaken in the UK.

BACKGROUND TO THE AUDIT AND REVIEW

The UK has an excellent track record of successfully hosting major events safely and securely – it's one of the reasons that the UK won the Olympic bid.

The Home Secretary is the lead Minister for Olympic and Paralympic safety and security and is committed to delivering a Games that is a celebration enjoyed by millions of people, safe and secure from all threats including terrorism. The Government is also committed to ensuring that security for the Games will leave a lasting positive legacy, including improved relationships between police and their communities and expertise that will support the security for major sporting events in the future.

The Government, through the guarantees signed by the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has committed to taking all measures necessary for the safe and peaceful celebration of the Games including co-ordinating all matters of security.

The Home Office is responsible for developing the Olympic Safety and Security

Strategy, monitoring the way it is put into action and for managing the security budget. The multi-agency Olympic and Paralympic Safety and Security Strategy was first published in 2009; an updated version reflecting the findings of the Audit and Review will be published early in 2011.

Delivery of the Strategy is led by agencies and organisations who have day-to-day responsibility for keeping us safe, including the police, fire and ambulance services; by the Olympic Delivery Authority who are building the venues and other Games infrastructure; and by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) who will host the Games and run the venues.

The Home Office's Structural Reform Plan set out the Coalition Government's commitment that the Department will 'help ensure a safe and successful Olympic and Paralympic Games in London in 2012'. As a first step to achieving this, the Home Office undertook an Audit and Review of Olympic security preparations, led by Baroness Neville-Jones the Security Minister, in the summer. This review was to assure the Government that planning is on track and on budget, and to highlight areas that need further work in the critical period up early next year when more activity will start moving from planning towards operations.

The Audit and Review was not intended to set the Olympic safety and security budget; however it has directly fed into work to establish this budget as part of the cross-Government Spending Review led by the Treasury.

The full Audit and Review is a classified document that cannot be made public as it contains sensitive information about security for the Games. This summary provides an overview of the findings and recommendations.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Audit and Review concludes that the Olympic and Paralympic Safety and Security Strategy remains on track and the work done to date has established an effective base for Games safety and security operations.

It concludes that further work is, however, still required and makes recommendations about governance and decision-making, funding arrangements, policy decisions, risk mitigation and management and strategic activity, which have been agreed by the Government. The recommendations will ensure planning and preparations remain on track.

The Audit and Review found that the principles of the multi-agency Olympic and Paralympic Safety and Security Strategy are sound and plans should continue to be based on them, in particular:

- planning and spending will be driven by risk analysis and intelligence;
- we will base our plans on the basis of a national terrorism threat level of SEVERE;
- the safety and security operation will not generally involve new security policy or practice;
- safety and security responsibilities which fall to event organisers under existing practice will fall to Olympic and Paralympic events organisers.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games are distinctive for the following reasons:

- the vast scale of the event, including the many cultural and celebratory events that will take place which will need to be considered as part of wider Olympic security planning;

- the level of scrutiny from, and involvement, of international partners and the resulting reputation risk to the UK; and
- the national requirements for command, control and co-ordination infrastructure.

The approach to Games security provides the flexibility to respond to any changes in threats or risks between now and 2012.

This risk-based approach to Olympic safety and security planning is informed by the Olympic Safety and Security Strategic Risk Assessment (OSSSRA), which is based on the methodology used for the National Risk Assessment. This single assessment enables consistent planning across the security operation. The Audit and Review recommends that plans for mitigating risk are kept under review and the Home Office has developed a methodology to do so.

Parallel events – those events that run in conjunction with the Games themselves such as large screens in parks and street parties – were considered by the Audit and Review. The Vancouver Games highlighted the scale these events can take, often drawing crowds as large as the venues themselves. Responsibility for the security of these events will fall primarily to event organisers, but needs to be considered alongside the wider Olympic security programme. The Audit and Review highlights the need for work on assessing the scale of these events to be completed. Policies on security at venues, for example on what spectators can bring with them, also need to be agreed. This work is in hand in close discussion with representatives of local and national Government, as well as the security agencies.

The need for a strengthened approach in mitigating the risks of cyber threats was identified. Cyber threats may come from a number of sources. Currently the most likely

threat is cyber-enabled ticketing fraud and work is already underway to protect against this, such as the LOCOG's education activity and the activity of the Metropolitan Police Service's Operation Podium. A focused action plan to address Games-related cyber concerns is now being developed by the Office of Cyber Security. This will make sure that the activity already going on, particularly at a national level, is effectively co-ordinated and focused to mitigate threats to the Games.

To ensure the effective transition from planning to delivery, the Audit and Review recommends that arrangements for the command, control and co-ordination of the security operation – which will be bigger and more complex than for other events the UK has managed - are finalised and fully tested and exercised. Additional work is under way in conjunction with the Government Olympic Executive and the Cabinet Office to deliver this.

The review emphasised the importance of helping the public understand what to expect from Games-time security, and how to play their part in keeping themselves safe. A public information campaign will be needed at Games time to make sure people's experience of the Games - whether as a ticket holder going to a venue, or watching on a big screen, or simply travelling across London to work and back – is safe and enjoyable. This campaign will include practical information on safety and security.

The Government will be reviewing progress regularly in these and other areas highlighted by the Audit and Review.

CONCLUSION

Plans for Games safety and security preparations remain on track, but further challenges between now and July 2012 are inevitable and it is critical that we continually assess and evaluate the security situation and the associated plans.

Given the timescales there is little room for manoeuvre. This next six months are crucial and the pressure is on all those involved to make swift, effective progress.

The Government is committed to delivering a safe and secure Games in keeping with the Olympic culture and spirit. The Audit and Review has shown what is needed to fulfill that commitment.

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