

Transport Salaried Staffs' Association

Walden House, 10 Melton Street, London NW1 2EJ

t 020 7387 2101

f 020 7383 0656

e enquiries@tssa.org.uk

19th April 2011

Lord Sebastian Coe
Chair LOCOG
23rd Floor
1 Churchill Place
Canary Wharf
London E14 5LN

Dear Lord Coe,

Olympics 2012: Engagement with the Transport Trade Unions

I write on behalf of all the signatories to this letter and under their authority.

I very much enjoyed your presentation to the TUC General Council on 16th February this year. As the clock ticks down to the start of the games the mounting excitement is becoming palpably evident throughout the nation and, hopefully, the world.

As I am sure you gleaned from the debate at the General Council meeting the whole of the trade union movement is keen, not only to ensure that the games are successful, enjoyable and leave the legacy for the British people that we all hope for, but also that the trade union movement plays its full part in the achievement of those jointly-shared objectives.

You will recall, no doubt, that my fellow General Secretary, Bob Crow of the RMT, and myself raised with you a number of concerns over the lack of a formal forum for the consideration of a co-ordinated plan in relation to the very complicated transport challenges, in its various modes, not only in London but around the country, that managing these issues will present.

Both Bob and myself, backed up by Francis O'Grady, Deputy General Secretary of the TUC, sought your assistance in establishing an appropriate forum to discuss the various issues that the transport trade unions consider need to be addressed to ensure that the transport aspects in relation to delivering a successful event are addressed at an early juncture.

You undertook to take that issue away and consider what could be done. At a subsequent meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport, Phillip Hammond, under the auspices of the TUC, the transport trade unions again raised the issue of establishing such a forum and advised the Secretary of State of the undertaking that you had given at the General Council meeting of 16th February. For his part the Secretary of State undertook to consult with you and revert back to us.

If we have not made clear in our exchanges so far our overriding objective in seeking the establishment of the forum that we have requested let me make it clear. In our view, the games

www.tssa.org.uk

members' helpdesk 0800 3282673
General Secretary Gerry Doherty

tssa

pose serious transport problems in terms of placing massive extra demands on the transport infrastructure of the country at large, but particularly in London and the South East, infrastructure that is already severely stretched, over a relatively short period of time.

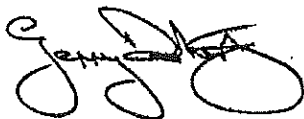
There will be huge extra demands placed on transport employees during the games, probably different demands in the various different modes of transport and in different areas. At this stage, because of the lack of engagement, the transport unions do not understand what those extra demands will place on their members and are, therefore, unable to understand the implications for their members.

Let me emphasise once again, the transport trade unions want a dialogue that will facilitate responsible sensible discussions, leading to agreement, well in advance of the start of the games that will ensure the delivery of the successful games we all want to see but we are becoming increasingly concerned at the lack of engagement at a national level.


My understanding is that there will be test events held at the various locations in which the events are to take place sometime in the near future. I imagine that one of the issues to be tested is that of the robustness of the transport infrastructure and the transport industry to deliver its part. In our view it is imperative that that the request that we have respectfully made is addressed as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Transport and to others listed below.

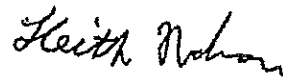
Yours sincerely



Gerry Doherty
General Secretary
TSSA



Bob Crow
General Secretary
RMT



Keith Norman
General Secretary
ASLEF

CC Philip Hammond
Secretary of State for Transport

Brendan Barber
General Secretary
TUC

Paul Delighton
Locog

Barry Camfield
Olympic Delivery Authority