



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

London Fire Brigade Headquarters
3rd Floor, 169 Union Street London SE1 0LL
T 020 8555 1200 x 30000 F 020 7960 3600
E ron.dobson@london-fire.gov.uk
www.london-fire.gov.uk

Ron Dobson CBEE, QFSM, FRCGS
LONDON FIRE COMMISSIONER

James Cleverly AM
Chair Health and Public Services Committee
City Hall
The Queens Walk
London
SE1 2AA

London Fire Brigade is run by the London
Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

Date 22 February 2011

Dear James,

Business as usual? – London's emergency and health services' preparations for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Thank you for forwarding me a copy of the Health and Public Services Committee's recent report Business as usual? – London's emergency and health services' preparations for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

I found the report useful and would like to provide the following response against the milestones you directed towards the London Fire Brigade (LFB).

Milestone 2: London's emergency and health services to have carried out cross-organisational testing to assess their systems for providing a safe and secure Games to ensure that they work and dovetail into business as usual activity.

London Fire Brigade Response: The LFB are actively involved in the development of cross organisational exercise and testing for the Games. We sit on the Olympic Security and Safety Testing and Exercising Board (OSSTEB) through the Olympic and Paralympic Security and Safety Programme (OPSSP). The LFB will be fully participating in the multi agency exercises being developed through this Board and the team that sits underneath the Board.

The LFB have developed an internal exercise and testing schedule which will ensure that all of its business as usual arrangements are tested prior to the Games. This will be enhanced by a regional and national exercise schedule ensuring that national resilience assets are tested against Olympic specific risks.

Milestone 3: Games time command and control arrangements to be finalised between stakeholders. This should include allocating key posts to named individuals.

London Fire Brigade Response: The LFB has agreed its command and control arrangements and is working with partners to deliver this. The LFB has named its Gold Commanders for the Games period and its staff who will be working in the National Olympic Coordination Centre.

Milestone 4: Following the ONS review of estimated visitor numbers, all of London's emergency and health services to have assessed the additional demands on their services during Games time and carried out detailed planning for how they will meet this demand.

London Fire Brigade Response: The LFB is planning to provide its normal high quality service during the Games period. With respect of the estimated number of visitors the LFB has put measures in place to mitigate any impact on our normal services by the provision of additional resources for our Community Safety and Fire Safety Regulation departments from the funding we have received from DCLG.

These officers have identified a number of areas that we will target through our community safety initiatives as part of a programme for a safer London and a safe Games during 2012. We are planning to provide appropriate safety messages on these risk areas to reduce the likelihood of fire and the subsequent impact on our services.

Milestone 5: The GLA along with London boroughs to have finalised a calendar of events which will provide London's emergency and health services with a clear picture of the range, scale and location of events during 2012.

London Fire Brigade Response: The LFB is working with partners on the development of the London Events Coordination Calendar (LECC) through the City Operations Programme. The outcomes of the LECC will underpin the planning we will undertake for events taking place in 2012.

Milestone 6: London's emergency and health responders to assess the impact of the Olympic Route Network and the Paralympic Route Network on their response times and provision of services outside of the Games venues.

London Fire Brigade Response: When the full detail of the ORN and PRN are known through the consultation process the LFB will use its risk modelling consultants to identify the possible impact on services outside of Games venues.

Milestone 8: Central government to have agreed final Olympic related funding allocations with London's emergency and health service providers.

London Fire Brigade Response: The LFB received written confirmation on the 31st January 2011 from the Department of Communities and Local Government providing notification of the grant payment for 2011/12 and 2012/13 for the purposes of Olympic funding. Subject to HM Treasury approval of Section 31 grant funding DCLG will provide a total of £3,598,000 of additional funding for this period. This is an 18.9% reduction on the amount that was sought.

Milestone 9: Details of London's emergency and health services budgets for delivering services during Games time to be made publicly available. This should include any expected funding gaps.

London Fire Brigade Response: Confirmation has only recently been received of the grant settlement for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 periods. Work is currently underway on the profiling of this grant against the planning demands.

Milestone 10: London's emergency and health service employers to have developed their systems for managing staff volunteering requests and leave during the Games period and the whole of 2012.

London Fire Brigade Response: The LFB is not anticipating changing the way it manages leave during 2012. If staff request to volunteer for the Games they will be able to do so as per other major events by using annual leave subject to the exigencies of the service.

Milestone 11: Clarity of the impact that LOCOG's volunteering requirements will have on London's emergency and health services personnel capacity during Games time.

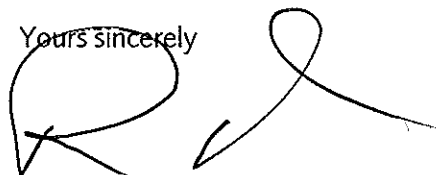
London Fire Brigade Response: Clarity around this area will not be developed until the number of successful volunteers is known.

Milestone 12: London's emergency and health service providers to have finalised their pre-planned and mutual aid agreements with their UK counterparts.

London Fire Brigade Response: The LFB has existing arrangements for mutual aid during Games time will be as per existing arrangements between respective fire and rescue services (as detailed in the Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004) National resilience assets will be managed as per business as usual through the National Coordination and Advisory Framework (NCAF) arrangements.

If you require any additional information about any of the answers above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Dobson', written over the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Ron Dobson
London Fire Commissioner