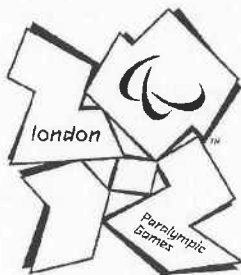
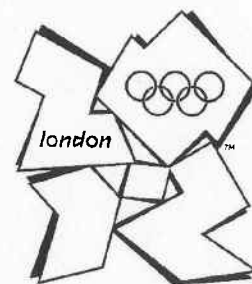


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Joanne McCartney AM
Chair of the Health and Public Services Committee
London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

4th March 2008

Dear Ms McCartney,

Re Emergency Life Support Training

Thank you for your letter of 28 January 2008 regarding the provision of Emergency Life Support (ELS) skills training to London 2012 volunteers and the feasibility of incorporating this training into our overall volunteer training programme.

ELS and medical provision is a key component of delivering a safe and enjoyable Games experience for the athletes, officials and spectators that attend the Games or Games related sites across the UK.

We will have first aid responders who are ELS trained in all Games locations; we will also have medical teams and Doctors who are trained in advanced life support in our competition venues. We will work very closely with the NHS, the London Ambulance Service, other blue light services, as well as organisations including St John's Ambulance, to ensure that we have the correct coverage of fully equipped emergency ambulances and trained personnel across our sites. We have a number of health and safety requirements that we have to comply with and we have to be confident that we have will meet these.

I am sure that you can appreciate that the public and visitors to the Games will look for assurance that first and foremost we have the correct levels of trained medical professionals available at our venues.

Our Games time volunteer force will play a specific role in this provision.

As you are aware we will be recruiting up to 70,000 volunteers from across London and the UK in a wide variety of generalist and specialist roles. Some of these roles will be specialist roles, for example, working with the media or telecommunications, indeed, some of these specialist volunteer roles will be for medically trained or first aid trained personnel to ensure we reach our specified requirements.

Other volunteer roles will be generalist and varied, and range from presenting medals to assisting athlete services, working in accreditation

or information services.

Training for volunteers will cover three core areas, generalist orientation, job specific training for the particular role they are doing and venue training. The role specific training will be very needs-based, so every volunteer will receive targeted training specifically designed to meet the needs of their role.

Part of this training will cover what to do in a medical and emergency situation. The specific role for our volunteer work force will not be to administer first aid themselves, but to raise the alarm and bring the properly qualified emergency services and medically trained personnel to the incident site as quickly as possible. In addition to this they will help manage crowds and the flow of people away from the incident and assist relatives and friends of the person/s involved.

It would be inappropriate for us to place the liability or responsibility on our volunteers to provide ELS, this is why their specific role in emergency situations will be to bring the qualified and responsible professionals to the incident as soon as possible.

To this effect we will not be providing ELS as part of the volunteer training that we will run. We will however, make volunteers aware of the existence of First Aid and ELS training should they wish to undertake it in their own time and at their own instigation. Irrespective of whether they have these qualifications their role will not change in an emergency situation, unless they are designated a specific medical volunteer on the assurance that they have the correct training and skills.

As you know, we are very keen to encourage the continuation of volunteering to all those who express an interest in volunteering at the Games. We are already signposting individuals to volunteering organisations and we very much hope that this is part of the legacy that the Games will leave behind.

I do hope that this helps to explain the importance we place on the provision of medical services during the Games and the specific role that our volunteers will play in this process; that is to bring the correct and professionally qualified people to those that have the misfortune of being taken ill at our venues as soon as possible.

I would be very happy to talk to you in more detail about this if you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Hughes
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