

LORD FAULKNER OF WORCESTER



Minister in the Government Whips' Office
Government Spokesperson for the Department for Culture,
Media and Sport

Lord Glentoran CBE DL
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

20 January 2010

Lords debate held on 5 January 2010 on preparations for the hosting of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

I promised I would write to all those involved in the recent debate on preparations for hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, following up on a number of questions which I was not able to answer at the time because of the lateness of the hour.

I would first like to thank you all for your excellent contributions. The debate generated a considerable amount of interest and posed complex questions on numerous Olympic and Paralympic and wider sporting issues. The answers to some questions in some cases are very detailed, and I have therefore decided to present the answers under a series of themed headings.

Sport funding

There has been record Government and lottery investment in sport over the last 10 years, more than £5.5 billion. Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) exchequer funding for sport has almost doubled since London's Olympic win in Singapore. In the three years up to the IOC vote in 2005, the amount of exchequer funding from DCMS was £313 million, whereas in the three years after it was £580 million. The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) are also putting millions into school sport as part of our joint strategy with them, which has benefited from £2.4 billion of exchequer and lottery investment since 2003, including over £780m of exchequer funding in the three years to 2011.

More specifically, Sport England's funding from Government has increased from £32 million in 1997/98 to £83 million in 2005/06 and £130 million in 2008/09. Between now and 2012, Sport England is investing over £800 million, providing National Governing Bodies with £480 million of funding, including £100 million to invest in their facilities, in addition to £60 million via the Football Foundation. £10 million has been invested this year into large scale major facilities projects via the sustainable facilities fund, £50 million has been invested in the Olympic

LORD FAULKNER OF WORCESTER

and Paralympic venues, and the Free Swimming programme has committed £50m of capital investment into pool stock. Protection for playing fields has been increased, and the standard of playing fields is high. All of this is over and above what will be invested into school facilities via the Building Skills for the Future programme, which will result in high quality school facilities.

Elite sport funding

The Government and UK Sport have steadily increased funding for Olympic and Paralympic sport over the past ten years since the introduction of Lottery funding. Record sums of Exchequer and Lottery money are being invested in the run-up to London, over £300 million, compared to £265 million for Beijing, and £85 million for Athens. This is now being supported by private sector funding through the Team 2012 partnership, involving UK Sport, LOCOG, and the British Olympic and Paralympic Associations. In September 2009, Team 2012 announced their presenting sponsor, VISA, in a multimillion pound deal.

In December 2009, UK Sport allocated their share of the monies from the VISA deal and made some adjustments to the inflationary assumptions upon which previous awards were based, to reflect the current economic environment. Whilst this resulted in small reductions in awards for some sports, it enabled UK Sport to provide greater certainty for all sports and further funding for others, including boxing to reflect the inclusion of women's boxing in the London programme, and to establish a contingency for potential medal opportunities in the future including those provided by Intellectually Disabled Athletes, who will be able to compete at a Paralympic Games for the first time since Sydney 2000. The main beneficiaries of this additional funding were eleven sports currently on 'basic' levels of funding for 2012, who essentially received a doubling of their investment through to the Games, based on improving performance criteria.

UK Sport is confident that the current levels of funding for all sports will enable us to hit our medal targets for London of Top Four in the Olympics and 2nd in the Paralympics, winning more medals in more sports compared to Beijing. It remains committed to the 'no compromise' investment strategy that ensures funding is available to maximise medal success. The decisions taken in December were supported by representatives from all the major medal potential sports, including Rowing. In addition, the Team 2012 partners are confident of raising further funding from the private sector, in the run-up to London, to further support our Olympic and Paralympic sports and athletes.

Lottery Funding and the Effect on Sporting Good Causes

We were always clear that the Lottery would be contributing to the Games and Parliament agreed the transfer of £1.085 billion from the non-Olympic Lottery good causes to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games between 2009 and 2012. Even after the transfers, the sport good cause can still expect to receive, on current projections, over £1 billion of new Lottery funding over the five year period of the Olympic transfers (2008/09 to 2012/13).

After 2012, all the Lottery good causes income will revert to the non-Olympic causes, including sport, and they will also benefit from development value

LORD FAULKNER OF WORCESTER

realised from the Olympic site. We have made clear there will be no further diversion from Lottery good causes to fund the Olympics.

Sporting Legacy

A number of peers stressed the importance of securing a positive sporting legacy from the Games in 2012. We acknowledge that the Government's targets are more ambitious than any previous host nation. We want to use the Olympics to build a world leading sports system where more children, young people and adults play sport and more people succeed at the elite level. Our wider goal is to get two million people more physically active by 2012/13. We want to reach those who most likely to adopt a sedentary lifestyle, women and girls, people with disabilities, those from minority ethnic communities, older people, and those from more deprived areas where participation rates are lower than average.

Eight years ago Ofsted estimated that only one pupil in four aged 16 or under received at least two hours of good quality Physical Education (PE) or sport each week. Now 90% of young people do at least two hours, with 51% participating in at least three hours a week.

In July 2007, the Prime Minister announced the aim of offering all 5-16 years old five hours of PE and sport each week. The offer is already in place in over 90% of School Sport Partnerships. Sport England's latest Active People survey showed 6.93 million adults participating in three moderate intensity sports sessions for 30 minutes per week, an increase of more than half a million since the survey began in 2005/06. This represents a good start towards meeting the Government's target of getting one million adults doing more sport by 2012, only six months into National Governing Bodies' current Whole Sport Plans.

To take this ambition further, the Department of Health (DH) published 'Be Active, Be Healthy', in February 2009, which sets out how Government will tackle this challenge. 'Be Active, Be Healthy' establishes a new framework for the delivery of physical activity aligned with sport for the period leading up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and beyond.

Action to achieve the target will be driven by a range of government departments. DCMS will lead on getting more people active through sport, and Sport England are working to deliver half the target by getting one million more adults doing more sport by 2012/13. The Department for Health (DH) will lead on delivering the second half of the two million target by coordinating health-related activities to achieve one million more adults doing more physical activity by 2012/13.

Other departments will deliver programmes that contribute to increasing physical activity including, the Department for Transport, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Communities and Local Government, as well as other principal partners. National initiatives, including the Government's Free Swimming programme, the Walking for Health programme and the Change4Life campaign will provide important impetus to achievement of the two

LORD FAULKNER OF WORCESTER

million target. Progress towards the two million target is overseen by a Physical Activity Programme Board which brings all key stakeholders together.

The Government's leading proposal for a community sports legacy was to offer free swimming to all those over 60 and we are delighted that over 80 per cent of all eligible authorities have signed up to offering free swimming to those aged 60 and over and 61 per cent are offering free swimming to those aged 16 and under. Requiring local authorities to allow all eligible people to swim for free in any participating pool means that every person aged 60 and over has access to free swimming, even if the local authority area in which they live is not offering free swimming.

We were always clear that participating in the free swimming programme would require real investment from Government and also local councils - this is a partnership to produce genuine benefits for their communities. We applaud the commitment councils are making in working with us and other stakeholders to make free swimming a reality and a legacy across the country.

In addition, Lord Moynihan raised the issue of whether rationalising DCMS' sporting NDPBs would help to deliver better outcomes for sport as a result of 2012.

The DCMS has committed to reviewing its Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) with a view to rationalising up to a third of its non-museum ALBs. Our sporting bodies will be part of that consideration, which will also look at the potential for efficiencies within both UK Sport and Sport England through closer working between the two bodies.

However, whilst we are looking at changes to the current sporting landscape, we are mindful of the need to ensure that any changes that we make do not undermine our ability to continue to deliver huge improvements to sport in this country, particularly as our biggest opportunity to change that landscape for a generation is less than three years away.

Permanent venues and their legacy

Olympic Park:

The ODA is on schedule to complete the majority of construction in mid-2011 as planned and is currently discussing with LOCOG and the Government the operational requirements for the period after the completion of construction and the Games themselves. This is for areas such as the security of the venues and the park, logistics, licensing and facilities management and maintenance.

Olympic Stadium legacy:

The Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC), which is responsible for managing the Park site and sporting and non-sporting venues after the Games, is currently looking at the legacy use of all the sporting and non-sporting venues in the Olympic Park, including the Olympic Stadium. It will work through its review by spring 2010 to determine the best additional uses of the stadium and its optimum size.

LORD FAULKNER OF WORCESTER

Olympic Village:

Lord Coe will be writing separately on the interesting and important questions raised by Lord James about the faith provision in the Village.

International Broadcast Centre / Main Press Centre:

I would like to clarify Lord James' point regarding the location of the International Broadcast Centre / Main Press Centre. This facility is currently under construction in the north western part of the Olympic Park site, and not on the Hackney Marshes. It is being built as a permanent facility which will, after the Games, become a major high quality employment space. The OPLC is responsible for its long term development planning and management, and is currently in discussions with a range of partners and potential interested parties on legacy usage of the site.

Temporary venues and their legacy:

The Government is working closely with the LOCOG, the ODA and with the national governing bodies to maximise all possible legacy opportunities for the sports from the Games.

Wembley:

The Olympic Board approved the use of Wembley Arena for Badminton and Rhythmic Gymnastics in October 2009. The Olympic Board considered Wembley Arena represented the most cost effective solution for the sports, as opposed to delivering a temporary arena either at Greenwich or Barking. The decision for Wembley also sits comfortably with London 2012's vision of using existing venues and infrastructure where feasible.

Woolwich Royal Artillery Barracks:

By staging the shooting events at the London location of Woolwich Royal Artillery Barracks, it will open the sport to a new audience and contribute to raising the profile of the sport. This opportunity was considered a significant factor in the International Shooting Sports Federation's approval of Woolwich as the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic venue.

In respect of shooting, a meeting was held recently to progress the discussion on the potential to relocate assets and equipment used at the 2012 competition venue. The Government Olympic Executive met Sport England, the National Small-bore Rifle Association and the British International Clay Target Shooting Federation, who are acting on behalf of British Shooting, to discuss legacy for the sport. We have welcomed the renewed and constructive approach been taken by British Shooting and we are currently arranging follow-up discussions with LOCOG and the ODA to consider potential legacy opportunities. We are hopeful that we can determine an appropriate legacy for the sport.

In respect of funding, the sport of shooting has seen a significant increase in funding and Sport England has recently invested £750,000 in the development of grassroots shooting as part of their Whole Sports Plan 2009-13. The plan will harness the interest in the sport created by the 2012 Games to increase participation levels.

LORD FAULKNER OF WORCESTER

Greenwich:

Greenwich Council is also actively promoting a range of sports activities and programmes using the 2012 Games to encourage local children and residents to become more active. The Council has committed £17.5million to develop legacy initiatives in partnership with a number of sports governing bodies, which are holding events in Greenwich in 2012 including investment in new sports facilities at local schools, parks, playgrounds and housing estates. This level of support would not have been possible if the borough were not hosting Olympic events.

For example, HOOFF, the Olympic legacy project, has announced that they will provide up to £200,000 of funding towards the construction of a new equestrian facility in Greenwich at Shooters Hill. This will not only introduce thousands of London children to horse riding, but also to provide educational and training opportunities leaving a sporting, community and education legacy which will benefit Greenwich for years to come. LOCOG is also in discussion with the Royal Parks (RP) about a permanent legacy feature in Greenwich Park, such as an upgrade to the children's playground.

Greenwich Park is a site of unique historical, environmental and archaeological significance, and important to local residents and users. LOCOG has worked closely with the Royal Parks, statutory bodies and other organisations to develop the venue in the best possible way to ensure the Park is returned in the condition they receive it.

As part of the town planning application an Environmental Impact Assessment was undertaken, which considers the potential effects on local residents, businesses and services in terms of changes to economic, leisure and amenity opportunities. LOCOG plans have been revised to minimise the extent to which visitor attractions within the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site will close and to ensure traffic disruption is minimized to avoid impacting upon the area, particularly Romney Road and Greenwich town centre.

Lord Coe has agreed to write with further detail concerning Greenwich on the points raised by Lord James in debate.

Advertising/Branding/Business Legacy:

Lord Coe has agreed to write separately to Baroness Valentine about the points she raised in the debate on brand protection. We are clear that protection must exist if we are to guarantee the private-sector sponsorship that is so crucial to fund the Games.

The Government is determined to create a business legacy for the UK - this is chiefly achieved through the opening up of London 2012's supply chains, and the provision of business support which is accessed through CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage service for Games-related contracts. This week a number of significant milestones have been achieved, over 100,000 businesses have registered for the service and over 5,000 contracts have been advertised in this way.

LORD FAULKNER OF WORCESTER

Companies across the country are supplying ODA contractors - for example a Welsh company is providing the steel for the Aquatics Centre and a Bolton-based company is providing steel for the Olympic Stadium. The ODA recently published a supplier map showing a snapshot of hundreds more companies, with representation from every nation and region of the UK, were winning work in the supply chains of its contractors, a fraction of the total number. This information is available on the London 2012 website.

On 2012 street dressing or 'Look', previous Games' experience suggests that using the brand too early can lead to Games brand 'fatigue' and may risk the loss of real impact for 2012. We are also mindful of our commitment to a sustainable Games, and to ensuring any street dressing has maximum impact - but also manages the impact of any street dressing campaign on the environment.

LOCOG is leading the creative design of the Look, consulting key stakeholders including the GLA and Host Boroughs as the designs develop.

Olympic Village financing and land sale receipts

Lord Glentoran raised two issues in his speech relating to the sale of land, and plots on the Olympic village, and how assumptions about the value of those assets would affect the budget for 2012. I should clarify at the outset that any fluctuations in the value of both land and plots in the Olympic Village will have no bearing on LOCOG's budget or their sponsorship targets or ticket prices.

The total estimated cost of developing the Olympic Village is approximately £1.1bn. The development costs up to the Games will be funded largely by the £650 million public sector investment, together with receipts from Triathlon Homes, a registered social landlord who have invested £268m for 1,379 apartments in the Olympic Village. Receipts from the sale of private units will meet the balance of development costs.

We expect that the sale of private units within the village will not only cover the remaining developments costs, but also generate enough receipts to pay back the additional £324m that ministers agreed, in May 2009, to invest in the Village to help support its development. That is dependent, however, on the property market post-2012.

Clearly the economic climate will also affect the value of the land acquired by the LDA in the Olympic Park. The current economic climate will affect land values in the short term, but the bulk of land sales are programmed to take place over an extended number of years beyond 2012. The expectation of the value of those land receipts is relevant to the transfer of control of the land in the Olympic Park to the Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) from the LDA. This is an important element in ensuring the OPLC delivers the Games legacy for the park. Further details of how this is being managed will be provided in due course.

LORD FAULKNER OF WORCESTER

Sustainability

Radioactive material:

The protection and safety of the workforce on the Olympic site and elsewhere is of the utmost importance and I am assured the ODA will provide a detailed response letter to Lord James on questions raised on this subject.

Air quality:

The Government has set out how the UK aims to meet EU air quality limits in its Air Quality Strategy. We have no plans to set targets outside that strategy specifically for the London 2012 Games.

Good air quality is important to us, and we intend that the Games set a standard for the future. Measures being taken include ensuring that the Olympic sites meet the stringent requirements in the London Best Practice Guidance to reduce emissions from demolition and construction; energy efficient buildings acting to lessen emissions; and improved public transport services to reduce the need to travel by car.

An updated sustainability plan "Towards a One Planet 2012" was published last month, outlining the latest plans to ensure the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games set new standards in sustainability. By delivering a sustainable Games and developing sustainable communities, London and the UK can be transformed by the 2012 Games,

Transport

We have always been clear that 2012 will be a public transport Games and the Northern Line upgrade, is on track for completion as scheduled in the first half of 2012.

The Olympic Route Network is being designed to ensure that athletes, officials, media and others working at the Games travelling by road are able to reach their events in a timely manner. Extensive consultation on the traffic management measures will take place when the design is complete, and the ODA is determined to ensure that the majority of Londoners are not negatively impacted by it.

In 2007, LOCOG set a challenging target that their car fleet must average less than 120g CO₂/km. BMW, as LOCOG's domestic Tier 1 automotive partner, is providing a low-carbon vehicle fleet of low-emission vehicles that will beat this target and meet the Euro 6 emissions standard. BMW also plan to showcase electric cars.

Security

The ultimate responsibility for Security lies with the Home Secretary, and the Olympic and Paralympic Security Directorate (OSD), part of the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism (OSCT) within the Home Office. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), other government agencies, the ODA and

LORD FAULKNER OF WORCESTER

LOCOG, clearly have important roles to play, but the lead responsibility remains with the Home Office.

The integrity of the Park in the transition year between the ODA completion of venues in mid 2011 and the transfer to LOCOG before the Games is vital. The ODA is currently discussing with LOCOG and the Government the operational requirements for the period after the completion of construction and the Games themselves. This is for areas such as the security of the venues and the park, logistics, licensing and facilities management and maintenance

Rather than produce a single costed security plan, security planning has been broken down into a series of documents, starting with the overall strategy which is supported by the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and five individual programme delivery plans. The strategy and CONOPs were agreed by Ministers in February 2009. This enabled us to make information about the security approach more manageable and accessible, and will enable as much as possible to be placed into the public domain. This included publishing an unclassified version of the strategy in July last year.

Planning to reduce the vulnerability to, and impact of, a chemical attack on the 2012 Games is being coordinated by the Home Office as part of a cohesive approach to all malicious threats. This will include protective security measures such as the profiling of venues for chemical material before and during the Games, and the screening of pedestrians and vehicles at venue access points. Multi-agency plans are being developed and exercised to ensure that the response and management of any malicious chemical incident is effectively coordinated to minimise harm and support the continuity of the Games.

Since its earliest stages, construction work on the Olympic Park has been subject to a strict system of void sealing and certification to reduce the risks from concealed devices. The ODA continues to receive specialist advice from the police and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) on venue construction and design.

On Cyber security, the OSD provided funding as part of the Olympic Serious Organised Crime Project for additional capacity to be created in both the Police Central E-crime Unit (PCeU) and the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) to deal with "Cyber attacks" directed at the 2012 Games.

Policing:

The national demand profile sets out the requirements for police officers and staff across a defined period covering Games time. It breaks down demand into skills areas and allows us efficiently to approach the options for supplying staff to secure the Games. This has been developing well over the last two years and continues to be updated in line with the planning of wider Olympic and Paralympic Security and Safety Programme.

In addition to these approaches, the option to request assistance from other forces across the country through mutual aid is being built into supply options, as are the development of opportunities for forces to work together.

LORD FAULKNER OF WORCESTER

Language skills

Lord Coe has agreed to write to Lady Coussins on the points she raised around language skills.

I hope you will find the information in this letter useful. The continuing cross-party support for the Games and our preparations for them are greatly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Faulkner', written in a cursive style.

Richard Faulkner