

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Slàinte agus Cùram
Sòisealta
Neil Gray MSP
Niall Gray BPA



T: 0300 244 4000
Clare Haughey MSP
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Convener
By email: hscs.committee@parliament.scot

17 September 2024

Dear Clare

I am writing to you to inform you and the Health, Social Care and Sports Committee of my intention to respond to a Government Initiated Question which will be asked today in Parliament.

The question is:

“To ask the Scottish Government to provide an update on its position on the Commonwealth Games potentially being hosted in Glasgow in 2026.”

The Scottish Government has conducted a thorough assessment of Commonwealth Games Scotland's proposal for Glasgow to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games. That assessment has been conducted alongside Commonwealth Games Scotland, the Commonwealth Games Federation, Glasgow City Council, the UK Government and, most recently, Commonwealth Games Australia. The collaboration has been extremely positive and productive and has resulted in the finalisation of a strong event proposal that will help to support a new future for the Commonwealth Games and deliver economic and sporting opportunity for Scotland.

On that basis, I have written to the Commonwealth Games Scotland today to inform them that the Scottish Government will give its support for the proposal.

No public funding is required from the Scottish Government for the delivery of the event and the Scottish Government will not provide any financial underwriting. The Commonwealth Games Federation will cover the majority of costs using money secured in a compensation negotiation with the Victorian Government following their withdrawal as hosts in July 2023. That funding will be supplemented by commercial income from ticketing, sponsorship, hospitality and merchandising. The UK Government has agreed to provide a ringfenced contingency funding of up to £2.3m that can be accessed if existing budget funds and

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contingency have been exceeded and all efforts to reduce costs have been exhausted. The Scottish Government is grateful to Commonwealth Games Australia for agreeing to provide financial support to the event in recognition of the importance of the Commonwealth Games to Australia's sporting system.

The Scottish Government thanks Commonwealth Games Scotland for the leadership they have shown in developing this proposal, and partners for their engagement and contributions to enable us to reach this point. The Commonwealth Games Scotland Board will now make a formal decision on whether to proceed. If it decides to proceed, it will seek approval to host from the Commonwealth Games Federation and undertake final work with partners to ratify an agreement for Scotland to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Commonwealth Games Scotland and the Commonwealth Games Federation will make further announcements in due course.

Yours sincerely



NEIL GRAY

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Ian Reid
Chair of Commonwealth Games Scotland
By email: chair@teamsotland.scot

17 September 2024

Dear Ian

2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Thank you to you and your team for your engagement with the Commonwealth Games Federation, Glasgow City Council and Government officials to support Ministers to consider your proposal. Whilst Ministers have been steadfast in our support for the Commonwealth Games, we have taken the necessary steps to ensure that proceeding with the Games would be in the best interests of Scotland.

The Scottish Government is grateful for your strong collaboration with the Commonwealth Games Federation, Glasgow City Council, the UK Government and, most recently, Commonwealth Games Australia. As a result, you have been able to collectively address and mitigate the risks and questions raised by Ministers and provide reassurance that you can present a Games that will deliver for athletes, engage our communities and continue Scotland's strong reputation for hosting international major events. I am pleased to inform you that Scottish Ministers have therefore agreed to support your proposal for the 2026 Commonwealth Games to be held in Glasgow.

I also confirm that no public funding is required from the Scottish Government for the delivery of the event and the Scottish Government will not provide any financial underwriting. The Commonwealth Games Federation will cover the majority of costs using money secured in a compensation negotiation with the Victorian Government following their withdrawal as hosts in July 2023. That funding will be supplemented by commercial income from ticketing, sponsorship, hospitality and merchandising. The UK Government has agreed to provide a ringfenced contingency funding of up to £2.3m that can be accessed if existing budget funds and contingency have been exceeded and all efforts to reduce costs have been exhausted. The Scottish Government is grateful to Commonwealth Games Australia for agreeing to provide financial support to the event in recognition of the importance of the Commonwealth Games to Australia's sporting system.

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Please take this letter as confirmation of our decision to support ahead of your Board discussion on 18 September. The Scottish Government will respond separately to your letter of 24 August 2024, confirming our ability to provide the specific undertakings you have requested. Officials will continue to engage with you to ensure a successful project set-up. I look forward to continuing to work with you on planning and delivering the event and welcoming the Games back to Glasgow in 2026.

Yours sincerely

NEIL GRAY

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