

Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bill Number: | SP Bill 4 |
| Introduced on: | 9 November 2007 |
| Introduced by: | Nicola Sturgeon (Government Bill) |
| Passed: | 30 April 2008 |
| Royal Assent: | 10 June 2008 |

Passage of the Bill

The Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill [SP Bill 4] was [introduced](#) in the Parliament on 9 November 2007. Stage 1 commenced on 7 November 2007 when the lead committee, Local Government and Communities, agreed their approach to the Bill. The Stage 1 (general principles) debate took place on 27 February 2008 and the Bill was passed following the Stage 3 parliamentary debate on 30 April 2008.

Purpose and objectives of the Bill

The Bill contained a number of diverse provisions which, in combination, seek to ensure that the Glasgow Commonwealth Games are organised effectively.

Provisions of the Bill

The provisions of the Bill included:

- The creation of new criminal offences prohibiting unauthorised advertising and outdoor trading within the vicinity of Games venues
- The creation of a new criminal offence to prohibit the unauthorised sale of Games tickets in public in excess of face value or with a view to making a profit, provide for the designation of enforcement officers empowered to enforce the Games advertising, street trading and ticket touting offences, and make it a criminal offence to obstruct them in their duties,
- providing councils with the power to make Games traffic regulation orders
- providing Scottish Ministers with the power to direct councils to make, vary or revoke any instrument which regulates road use in relation to the Transport Plan for the Games
- providing councils with the power to issue a Compulsory Purchase Order for land within their area which they believe is required for Games purposes
- providing Scottish Ministers with powers to pay grants and provide other forms of assistance to the Organising Committee of the Games and set conditions on such assistance; and

- providing Scottish Ministers with the power to repeal the Act once the Games have ended.

Parliamentary consideration

The Local Government and Communities Committee supported the general principles of the Bill but highlighted some specific issues where it considered the Bill could be improved. For example, the Committee considered that definitions of 'vicinity' and 'precinct' should be provided at the earliest opportunity. In addition, the Committee sought some amendments to the recruitment and powers of enforcement officers and sought a response from the Scottish Government regarding concerns over the compulsory purchase of land.

At Stage 2 of the Bill's consideration 42 amendments were tabled by the Minister for Communities and Sport, Stewart Maxwell MSP. Some of the main amendments to the Bill at Stage 2 were:

- the removal of the term 'Games Event' and its replacement with the term 'Games Location'
- all references to enforcement regulations within the Bill were removed with specific provision being made to allow Scottish Ministers to make regulations to specify criteria for appointment as enforcement officers and the procedure for people to claim compensation for damage done to their property
- Extending the powers of police officers in order that they have the same powers, restrictions, liabilities and protections as enforcement officers. The Bill, as introduced, had intended that the primary responsibility for enforcement would lie with enforcement officers, with police officers involved in a supporting role. Whilst this remains the intention of the Bill, the amendments at Stage 2 enable police officers to enforce the legislation independently of enforcement officers

No amendments to the Bill were passed at Stage 3.

Stephen Herbert
Senior Research Specialist