



Department for Culture, Media and Sport
FoI Response



15 January 2008

CMS Case Number: 108392

Thank you for your request for information which I received on 14th December 2008. We are dealing with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

Under the Act you have the right to:

- know whether we hold the information you requested; and
- subject to the application of any relevant statutory exemptions, be provided with that information.

The questions you asked are points 1 and 2 below:

'I understand that DCMS is responsible for monitoring the activities of LOCOG 2012.

1. Does LOCOG have a contingency plan against the possibility that holding the equestrian events in Greenwich Park were found to offer inferior value for money than alternative possible sites or that planning permission to use Greenwich Park is refused?

The Olympic Board met on 19th November and discussed the initial findings of a KPMG review of temporary venues, commissioned by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) earlier this year. The KPMG review was commissioned to look at temporary venues to see if cost savings could be made by finding alternatives to using temporary venues.

The Olympic Board endorsed the recommendation that the Equestrian events will remain at Greenwich Park. None of the alternatives identified by LOCOG and considered by KPMG are in a location which is close enough to accommodate the Modern Pentathlon show jumping event which needs to be located close to the Olympic Park to allow the completion of all five events within one day. Any move away from Greenwich would therefore result in a doubling up of facilities with the need to build a separate Modern Pentathlon show-jumping facility close to the Olympic Park.

In addition, all of the alternative venues would also require the funding of additional accommodation as they are not within IOC guidelines for travel time from the Olympic Village. Given these considerations, an alternative location for equestrian and modern pentathlon would not result in lower costs than Greenwich Park. LOCOG are working closely with Greenwich Borough Council in terms of planning consents for the equestrian events at Greenwich Park and will be submitting their formal planning application later in the year.

You may wish to consult the KPMG Report which contains key findings relating to the basketball and equestrian/modern pentathlon venues, initial findings on the Shooting venue and an assessment of the temporary arena on the Greenwich Peninsula. The report, which contains a number of redactions has been published by the ODA and can be found online at <http://www.london2012.com>

*2. If so, which alternative site or sites would be favored by
a) LOCOG and b) DCMS'.*

In terms of alternative sites for the equestrian events, I should explain that this is a matter for LOCOG as responsible authority for the staging on the Games. Greenwich Park was selected in conjunction with the international governing body for equestrian sport, the Federation Equestre Internationale and the British Equestrian Federation as the site which provided a stunning backdrop to the equestrian events and was located close to the Olympic Park and Village – the centrepiece of the Games. Proximity to the village as part of a 'compact games' was instrumental in London's winning bid being selected by the International Olympic Committee in Singapore in 2005. It is also important to note that Greenwich Park was not selected on a simple cost-benefit basis, but considered by LOCOG as part of a range of factors.

If you need any help or advice or have any questions about this letter, please contact the department on 020 7211 6988 or email gary.lynch@culture.gsi.gov.uk. Alternatively, please write to me at the above address. Please quote the above reference number in any communications.

If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of our response to your request for information and/or wish to appeal against information being withheld from you please send full details within two calendar months of the date of this letter to:

FOI Central Team,
Public Engagement and Recognition Unit
Department for Culture Media and Sport,
2-4 Cockspur Street, London,
SW1Y 5DH

You have the right to ask the Information Commissioner (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. Please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning his investigation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Kind regards

Freedom of Information Officer
Freedom of Information Team