



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and
International Relations Committee

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

25 July 2023

Dear Delyth,

Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach to Football Matches and Other Sporting Events

I am writing in response to your letter of 14 July regarding the above convention. In relation to your request for further information I can confirm:

- I welcome the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach to Football Matches and Other Sporting Events. It is based on an approach of co-operation between all public and private stakeholders involved in making sports events safe, secure and welcoming, including local communities and supporters and is an approach that is already followed in Wales, not just for sporting events, but for any major event. We take an inclusive approach on the planning and management of an event and encourage cooperation and coordination between all relevant agencies.
- The Welsh Government was not directly involved in the development of the convention, which was signed by the UK Government in May 2019, but we are supportive of its principles.
- Officials have discussed the ratification of the convention with their counterparts in UK Government including the Home Office, particularly in the context of the joint UK and Ireland bid to host the Euros.
- The requirements of the convention are already in place and therefore no further steps are needed to implement it. Existing UK legislation satisfies the requirements of the Convention, and it is largely based on the methodology of policing in Wales, which is

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

already subject to continuous risk-based deployment, proportionate intervention and action to prevent, deter and detect criminal activity inside and outside the stadia and local vicinity.

- Responsibilities for implementing the convention lie across all partners involved in the delivery of an event including police and local authorities in Wales. As well as security and safety, this extends to those responsible for services to ensure football and other sports events are enjoyable and welcoming for all, in stadiums as well as public spaces where spectators and supporters gather before, during and after the matches. This includes aspects such as good catering and toilet facilities and the manner in which people are greeted and treated throughout the event. That is why the inclusive approach taken in Wales on the planning and management of an event is crucial.

I welcome the committee's interest in this convention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD