

Email to parties who have expressed an intention to participate in the hearings 08 July 2020

THE GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL (CELTIC PARK AND EMIRATES ARENA) (EVENT DAY EMERGENCY ROUTES AND PARKING ZONE) ORDER 20__

THE GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL (IBROX STADIUM) (EVENT DAY EMERGENCY ROUTES AND PARKING ZONE) ORDER 201_

Dear Sir/Madam,

The initial period of suspension of procedures (owing to the COVID-19 emergency) has now been extended until 21 July 2020. The council has however requested that consideration be given to a suspension of procedures for a period of 6 months for both the orders for Celtic Park/Emirates Arena and Ibrox Stadium. The council has provided the following reasoned justification for the proposed suspension.

The Council's primary reason for proposing this suspension is the number of important unknowns that exist at this stage as a result of COVID-19 which would have a direct bearing on the cases for and against the TROs in their current form. For example, there are important questions such as:

- When will games recommence at both the stadia.
- How many supporters will be permitted to attend the stadia.
- The length of any restrictions on the number of attendees.
- Whether any restrictions will apply the use of public transport, and how long such restrictions may apply.
- Will public transport be able to accommodate the supporters.
- Will private cars need to be part of the transport solution.

The Council does not know and suspects that no-one else has the answers to those questions at this stage, and it will be some time before these matters settle. More certainty regarding these and other such questions will be required before a reasonable examination of the ongoing need for the TROs and the measures contained within them can take place. It is respectfully suggested that holding the hearings into the proposed TROs without a higher level of certainty on these types of question would both potentially add substantial complexity to the hearing process (as evidence may need to be taken on a range of hypothetical scenarios), and may potentially render the hearing sessions and recommendations which follow thereon of limited value (if the actual eventual scenario in the 'new normal' isn't a scenario specifically covered by the hearing sessions.)

Also, and importantly, the resources of the main parties involved in the hearing processes (the Council, Celtic and Rangers) will most likely be dedicated to their respective recovery plans and may not be fully able to focus on the necessary preparations that will be required for the hearings.

The council however considers that an exception to the above could be made by providing an opportunity to address the preliminary challenge by Celtic Football Club (with respect to the Celtic Park/Emirates Arena Order) within that 6 month period, once the council's relevant officers are able to prepare a response to the challenge.

The reporters will give consideration to the matters raised above, and will make a recommendation to the council as to whether or not the suspension of the hearing process for a period of 6 months should proceed. However, they consider this to be a significant development in the process which was agreed at the pre-hearing meetings. You are being advised of this proposed suspension as someone who has stated an intention to participate in either (or both) of the hearings. You are not obliged to respond to this email, but if you wish to make any comments relating to the proposed suspension you may do so by writing to us within 14 days of receiving this email. Any comments received will be taken into account by the reporters. It is intended that a decision should be taken on this matter as soon as possible after 21 July 2020.

Please note however, that this is **not** an opportunity to comment on the merits or otherwise of the orders, **only** whether or not you consider that the process should be suspended for 6 months. There will be adequate opportunity to comment further on the merits of the orders through the preparation of formal statements, further written submissions, or discussion at the hearings, all as agreed at and/or as set out in the notes of the pre-hearing meetings.

Yours faithfully,

Programme Officer Team