

**EVENT DAY EMERGENCY ROUTES AND PARKING ZONE) ORDER 20\_\_ CELTIC PARK AND EMIRATES ARENA & IBROX STADIUM**

**To the Programme Officer Team**

Dear [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you on the matters covered by your recent emails. Please could you forward the following position statement to the Reporters:

“Dear Sir and Madam,

Further to your statement of 13 Jan 2021 on the projected programme for Hearings and the issues that were anticipated, there has been substantial debate within the Council on the important issues that were raised and now the Council can confirm its position as follows:

Firstly, the Council is committed to continuing - as far as it reasonably can - with the Hearing processes into these Orders.

The Council officers have been in dialogue with the Scottish Government in relation to the timescales for making the proposed Orders under The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure)(Scotland) Regulations 1999 (“the Procedure Regs”). Through this dialogue it has been clarified that there are actually 5 six monthly extensions permitted for making the Orders and not the 4 six monthly extensions as previously suggested. This means that the final deadline for making these Orders is actually around November 2022 rather than May 2022.

Whilst this potentially gives the parties and the Reporters some welcome further time to complete the Hearing processes, there are still uncertainties on whether all the steps for completing the Hearing process and making the Orders will be possible within that timeframe. In particular, the timing of when fully attended football matches will resume is still unknown.

As that is the case, the Council will continue to seek a Covid type relaxation of the Procedure Regs from the Scottish Government on the timeframe for making these Orders - as there is no doubt that the Covid emergency has severely impacted the process for making these Orders.

Taking the above into account, the Council considers that it is reasonable to seek a further sist of the hearing process for another 6 months (taking the sist to the end of August 2021). We base this request on the same argument that was applied when the first six month sist was sought. That is, hopefully by that time, with a successful vaccination programme in place, we all might be in a position to see fully attended football matches at least being phased in. In the Council's view it would make more sense to have the Hearings at a time when football attendances are getting back to a normal level, rather than having the Hearings in isolation and not being certain when the site visits to attended football matches will be able to take place.

Please could you consider this request and inform me of the further steps or information required to confirm the Reporters' position on this request.

Regards

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