

Suspension of the hearing process to the end of August 2021

Responses to revised timeline and further process

Following our last statement dated 30 June 2021, we have received a number of comments which we will take into account in setting out the programme for statements and in further considering the hearing process.

We intend to end the suspension of the hearing process at the end of August 2021, allowing the council to submit its statement by the end of September 2021. However, we do not consider that it is possible to set absolute deadlines for the submission of others' statements until the council's statement has been submitted. We recognise that this will affect the date of the hearing on a pro-rata basis.

We refer in particular to a response on behalf of Celtic Football Club dated 30 July 2021 which is set out opposite. Whilst this is the only response received which challenges the programme for statements (based upon the notes of the pre-hearing meetings), we consider that the matters raised are of more general concern. We further consider that this more general concern is relevant to both the Celtic Park/Emirates Arena Order, and the Ibrox Stadium Order.

With respect to the programme for the submission of others' statements, we find that it will be necessary to further consult parties intending to participate in the hearing when the council has submitted its statement and any proposed modifications. The purpose of this consultation will primarily be to assess the period of time reasonably required by other parties to respond to the council's statement on each order.

The response on behalf of Celtic Football Club also raises a more fundamental difficulty with respect to the examination of the order. It is submitted that it is not possible to properly examine the order or its impact in the current circumstances. However, it is our view that this is a matter to be addressed within the statements, and we have already asked the council to take this matter into account in the submission of its statement by the end of September 2021.

With respect to the extensions available under the 1999 Regulations, we would refer to the request for further information in the final paragraph of our statement dated 12 March 2021. We had asked the council to provide this in the context of Regulation 3 and the associated explanatory note of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2005. So, we have now asked the council for more information relating to any correspondence or dialogue with the Scottish Government, or any other statutory instrument or advice, which justifies 5 extensions to the period set out in the 1999 Regulations.