

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 25 MARCH 2021**

**SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS ACT 1975**

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this report is to confirm General Safety Certificates in terms of the Safety of Sports Ground Act 1975 and Fire Safety and Places of Sport Act 1987, where there are no objections or representations, following consultation and upon the recommendation of the Tayside Ground Safety Inspection Team (TGSIT).

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- 1) confirms the General Safety Certificates detailed in **Appendix 2** in terms of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 the Fire Safety and Places of Sport Act 1987; and
- 2) delegates authority to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to sign letters of confirmation to give effect to this decision.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 and the Fire Safety and Places of Sport Act 1987 sets out functions which sit with local authorities in relation to the certification of “designated sports grounds” and “regulated stands” as to their safety to accommodate spectators. One of the functions under these Acts relates to the issuing of General Safety Certificates. When a General Safety Certificate is issued, it thereafter requires to be confirmed by the Authority on an annual basis.
- 2.2 The functions under the 1975 Act originally sat with the Regional Council before passing to the new Councils in 1996. When these functions sat with the Regional Tayside Council, it discharged these functions largely in liaison with the Tayside Ground Safety Inspection Team (TGSIT). This Inspection Team was a multidisciplinary group of officers comprising technical staff, buildings authority staff, police, fire and ambulance services’ representatives and first aiders. The Legal and Democratic Services department were represented on the group to carry out the secretarial work of the team in relation to Angus.
- 2.3 When the functions were passing from the Regional Council to Angus Council, in 1996, the Council decided, through the Civic Licensing Committee, to continue the practice of discharging the majority of functions in liaison with the TGSIT. Report AC147/96 is attached at **Appendix 1** for information purposes and details the delegations which were made. These delegations relate to powers of the TGSIT to enter sports grounds and inspect them and also in relation to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to sign prohibition notices under section 10 of the Safety of Sports Ground Act 1975.
- 2.4 The TGSIT have, throughout this time, carried out their duties in terms of the issue of Safety Certificates and General Safety Certificates. On the 8 March 2021, the Council received notification that TGSIT would be disbanding. Council officers are currently undertaking initial work to establish a new Angus Council Safety Advisory Group as recommended by the Local Government Football Review Working Group and by Sports Ground Safety Authority. Prior to disbanding, the TGSIT recommended that the General Safety Certificates detailed in **Appendix 2** be confirmed following no objections being received from the partners sitting on the TGSIT. Certificates require to be confirmed annually in terms of the legislation.

- 2.5 The practice has previously been that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services has signed off these certificates following consultation with the TGSIT. This report is brought to this Committee to provide clarity in relation to the authorising of these certificates for the 2020/2021 season and for a confirmation decision to be made in respect of each sport ground. A further report will be brought to this Committee in order to clarify the Scheme of Delegation following the disbanding of the TGSIT and the role of any future Safety Advisory Group in this process.

### **3. SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

- 3.1. The Standing Orders detail that functions for the Safety of Sports Ground Act 1975 sit with the Civic Licensing Committee of Angus Council.

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report.

### **5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no human rights or equalities implications attached to this report.

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**ANGUS COUNCIL**

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE - 13 MARCH 1996

SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION

**ABSTRACT**

This Report discusses the discharge of the Council's functions under Safety of Sports Grounds legislation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee agrees:-

- (a) to support the proposal to retain the Advisory Group of officers ("the Safety Team") on a Tayside-wide basis;
- (b) to authorise the officers referred to in this Report to enter a sports ground at any reasonable time and to make such inspections of it and such enquiries relating to it as they consider necessary for the purposes of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975, and in particular to examine records of attendance at the ground and records relating to the maintenance of safety of the ground and to take copies of such records;
- (c) to delegate to the Director of Law and Administration power to issue prohibition notices in terms of Section 10 of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (as amended) restricting the admissions of spectators to a sports ground, or any part it, if that admission would involve a serious risk to spectators; and
- (d) to recommend to the Council that any of its officers so authorised in (c) above be indemnified as regards any damages, costs or expenses levied against them in pursuance of their duties under the Act.

**CURRENT POSITION**

1. Responsibility for the local authority functions under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (as amended) will pass from the Regional Council to the new Councils on 1 April 1996. These functions relate to the certification of "designated sports grounds" and "regulated stands" as to their safety to accommodate spectators.
2. The Regional Council has discharged its functions largely through the Tayside Ground Safety Inspection Team ("the Safety Team") which is in effect an advisory group of officers recommended in the Taylor Report into the Hillsborough Stadium disaster in 1989. This is a multi-disciplinary group of officers comprising technical staff, buildings authority staff, police, fire and ambulance services' representatives and first aiders. The secretarial work of the Safety Team has been undertaken by the Law and Administration Department.

3. The Tayside Joint Police Board considered Report PB18/96 by the Chief Constable at its meeting on 12 February 1996. A copy of that Report is appended hereto. The Board noted that there would be no additional costs to the police service in continuing the Safety Team on a Tayside-wide basis and agreed that the constituent authorities' views be sought on how the functions should be discharged in the future.
4. In Angus, there is one designated sports ground, namely Gayfield Park, Arbroath. This is covered by a general safety certificate issued by the Regional Council. There are regulated stands at the other three senior football grounds in Angus, namely Station Park, Forfar, Glebe Park, Brechin and Links Park, Montrose, and these are also covered by general safety certificates. The responsibility for the issue of general safety certificates in future will be the responsibility of Angus Council.

## **PROPOSAL**

5. There is undoubtedly merit in continuing the Safety Team on a Tayside-wide basis to ensure continuity of approach and effective liaison with the police, fire and ambulance services. I understand that the other Councils in Tayside also favour this approach.
6. As the day-to-day functions of the local authority are largely technical and operational, it is suggested that the Council's functions be delegated to the Director of Law and Administration who would exercise them in consultation with the Safety Team. However, the approval of the terms of safety certificates and amendments and renewals thereto, should remain with this Committee.
7. It is also proposed that the officers or their representatives referred to in the Appendix to this Report be authorised in terms of Section 11 of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 to enter and inspect sports grounds in connection with the Council's functions under the Act.

CATHERINE A COULL  
Director of Law and Administration

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

**AUTHORISED OFFICERS IN TERMS OF SECTION 11 OF  
THE SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS ACT 1975**

Director of Law and Administration, or her representative, being an officer of the Department of Law and Administration,

Director of Roads, or his representative, being an officer of the Department of Roads,

Director of Planning, Transport and Economic Development, or his representative being an officer in the Building Control Section of his Department,

Chief Constable of Tayside Police, or his representative being a serving police officer of Tayside Police,

Firemaster of Tayside Fire Brigade, or his representative, being a serving officer of the Brigade,

Chief Ambulance Officer for Tayside, or his representative, being an officer of the Scottish Ambulance Service,

Director General and Secretary of the St Ambulance Association, or his representative, being a member of the St Ambulance Association,

Emergency Planning Officer of Tayside Health Board.

# TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

## REPORT BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE NO PB18/1996

**SUBJECT: SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS - ADVISORY GROUP OF OFFICERS ("THE SAFETY TEAM")**

**ABSTRACT**

This Report refers to a previous report and request by the Board for provision of financial implications on the options being considered by the local authorities on the future of safety of sports grounds.

### 1. RECOMMENDATION

The Board is invited to note the financial position relative to the proposal to retain the Advisory Group on a Tayside-wide basis, and recommend to the 3 unitary authorities that this is the preferred option of the police service.

### 2. BACKGROUND

Chapter 3 ("the Framework") of the Final Report of the Inquiry by the Rt Hon Lord Justice Taylor into the Hillsborough Stadium Disaster on 15 April 1989, sets out the statutory framework for the safety of spectators at sports grounds. A copy of Chapter 3 is attached to this Report.

It will be noted that at paras 152 and 153 reference is made to the formation of an Advisory Group. Taylor indicates in para 152 that "it is important that there should be a safety team consisting of appropriate members of the local authorities own staff, representatives of the police, of the fire and ambulance services and of the building authority". In Tayside, this Group is known as the Tayside Ground Safety Inspection Team ("The Safety Team") and, presently, is chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable. The secretarial work of the Group is undertaken by the Law and Administration Department and engineering advice is given by the Regional Council's Roads Department. In addition, representatives of each District Council's Building Control Departments attend meetings along with representatives of the Fire Brigade, the Scottish Ambulance Services, the St Andrews Ambulance Association and Tayside Health Board.

### 3. CURRENT POSITION

While the Regional Council's functions under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (as amended) are part of the Order of Reference of the Council's General Purposes Committee, apart from the formal issuing of safety certificates for designated sports grounds and regulated stands, the functions are in practice delegated to the Safety Team. A copy of the attached extract from the minute of the Police and Fire Committee of 15 October 1991 sets out the arrangements for the functions which Tayside Regional Council has adopted.

The Safety Team meets regularly (every 6 weeks) and consults with the managers of the sports grounds. Members also attend selected matches on a regular basis. The multi disciplinary approach of the Team is regarded as being extremely effective.

At its last meeting, the Safety Team gave consideration to the arrangements which might apply after 1 April 1996 when local government is reorganised. The statutory responsibility for the functions will rest with the Unitary Councils and are likely to be seen as another of their regulatory functions.

#### 4. OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

It would appear that there are two main options for the Advisory Group recommended by Taylor which are discussed below.

##### Option 1 - Retain Advisory Group on a Tayside-wide basis.

The advantage of this option is that the expertise and close working relationship of the various disciplines which make up the Safety Team will be harnessed and maintained and continuity will be achieved. Also, since much of the work relating to the safety of spectators is closely allied to the operational policing of events at sports grounds, it is useful for the Advisory Group to be based on the police area. It should also be noted that fire, ambulance and first aid services are also organised on a Tayside-wide basis.

The disadvantage of this option is that there could be seen to be conflicts of interest if the police continued to lead the Team and indeed Taylor recommended that the Chairman should be from the local authority. Also, each local authority might wish to develop its own approach to spectator safety at the grounds within its area and prefer not to be reliant for advice on a Tayside-wide group.

##### Option 2 - Form three Advisory Groups within each Council area.

The advantage of this option is that each Council would be free to determine its own arrangements for its functions and the advice to elected members within its area. It could be argued that the needs of grounds such as Dens Park and Tannadice are different from those at a modern purpose-built ground such as McDiarmid Park, or indeed the smaller grounds in the Angus area where large areas of standing/terracing accommodation still exist. The police, fire and ambulance services have confirmed that there would be no real operational problem in being represented on three different Advisory Groups and this would be consistent with the devolved approach to the police service in particular.

The disadvantage of this option is that the continuity and effective working relationships which have been built up since the Taylor Report would be lost.

The Safety Team would appreciate guidance as to what arrangements might be adopted after 1 April 1996. The Safety Team itself has expressed a preference for Option 1, but recognises that it is for each authority to determine its own arrangements.

#### 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is anticipated that no additional costs will be incurred by continuing the existing Advisory Group and indeed by adopting this method costs are likely to be reduced compared to the alternative proposal of forming an Advisory Group within each Council area. The alternative option would be more time consuming and repetitious and, since costs involved relate solely to the time and travel of representatives of the Group, it is clear that increased costs would be involved.

**6. CONCLUSION**

The Force has a key role to play in the regulation of spectator safety at sports grounds both from an operational point of view and as a member of the multi-disciplinary Safety Team. Accordingly, it is concluded that the balance of advantage lies in adopting Option 1 above and it is recommended that the Board should commend this approach to the 3 Unitary Councils in the Tayside Police area.

  
**William A Spence**  
**Chief Constable**

6 February 1996

**NOTE**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.



## PART II - SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUNDS

### CHAPTER 3

#### THE FRAMEWORK

##### Minimum Standards of Safety

139. It is a truism that safety and crowd control are inter-dependent. If a crowd gets out of control safety will be in jeopardy. Measures to control the crowd, such as fencing, almost always have an impact on safety. Nevertheless, I shall seek to treat each separately. In this Part I shall deal with management and features of the ground affecting safety.

140. I have already stressed the need for football management to give higher priority to the safety and well-being of spectators. Clearly, the cost of safety measures and improvements can more easily be borne or raised by the successful clubs than by those struggling to keep going. But the safety of spectators invited to a ground cannot be left to depend upon the affluence of the club. There must be prescribed minimum requirements which have to be fulfilled at any ground if spectators are to be admitted there. The evidence of practice pre-Hillsborough and indeed post-Hillsborough, right up to December 1989, convinces me that the provisions presently in place, statutory and otherwise, have not been strong enough to enforce that basic level of safety.

##### Legislation for Safety

141. The principal instruments aimed at achieving a framework for safety are the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 as amended by the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 and the Home Office Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (Green Guide).

142. The 1975 Act, as amended, requires a Safety Certificate to be issued by the local authority in respect of designated sports grounds. It is an offence (Section 12(1)(d)) to contravene any term or condition of the Certificate. Thus the requirements of the Certificate are mandatory but what those requirements should be is in the discretion of the local authority.

143. Section 2(1) of the 1975 Act provides:-

"A safety certificate shall contain such terms and conditions as the local authority consider necessary or expedient to secure reasonable safety at the stadium when it is in use for the specified activity or activities, and the terms and conditions may be such as to involve alterations or additions to the stadium."

144. Originally, certain obligatory terms had to be inserted in Safety Certificates. Section 2(2) provided:-

"Without prejudice to subsection (1) above, a safety certificate -

- (a) shall specify the maximum number of spectators to be admitted to the stadium;
- (b) may specify the maximum number to be admitted to different parts of it; and
- (c) shall include terms and conditions:-
  - (i) as to the number, size and situation of entrances to and exits from the stadium or any part of it (including means of escape in case of fire or other emergency) and the means of access to any such entrances or exits;
  - (ii) requiring those entrances, exits and means of access to be properly maintained and kept free from obstruction; and
  - (iii) as to the number, strength and situation of any crush barriers."

However, when the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 extended the application of the 1975 Act from sports stadia to all sports grounds, there was substituted for section 2(2), by section 19 of the 1987 Act, a new section 2(2) and a new section 15A giving power to the Secretary of State by order to lay down what terms and conditions a Safety Certificate shall include. No order has yet been made but guidance from the Home Office has recommended local authorities to approach their function under section 2(1) in accordance with the criteria in the superseded section 2(2). (See Home Office Circular 71/1987 dated 25 November 1987, Annex A, paragraph 6.)

145. So, presently, local authorities are not bound to include terms or conditions on any particular aspect of safety in the Certificate. In practice, they no doubt follow the Home Office guidance. They also take account of the Green Guide.

#### Green Guide

146. The latter, however, is by way of guidance only. It provides as follows:-

"6. Deviations from individual guidelines are possible without necessarily detracting from the overall safety of the ground. The variety of type, function and layout of sports grounds and the inter-relationship of the different parts of them means that a flexible approach should be maintained to take account of the particular circumstances at individual grounds".

Such flexibility is obviously highly desirable in relation to some aspects of the guidance. But flexibility can become degraded. Where a local authority has chosen to incorporate the criteria of the Green Guide into a Safety Certificate there has been scope for considerable deviation from provisions which ought to command standard adherence. Thus, for example, at Hillsborough where the Safety Certificate required compliance with certain Green Guide recommendations and a departure was shown to have occurred, the defence was that the Guide expressly provided for flexibility so that a deviation from its provisions was a matter of legitimate discretion.

147. In view of this and evidence I have received suggesting that the Green Guide may not be followed as closely as is desirable, I consider that when it is revised it needs to be given more effect. At present there is a risk of slackness developing in the absence of any mandatory provisions. There would appear to be two alternative courses open. It would be possible to make the terms of the Green Guide mandatory throughout. However, I think that this could be too rigid and in relation to some peripheral matters impractical. The other course is to make some of its provisions obligatory inclusions in the Safety Certificate. I prefer this.

148. There are some requirements of such crucial importance to safety that it should be mandatory for Safety Certificates to specify them. I consider those specified in the original section 2(2) of the 1975 Act fall into this category. Moreover, so far as the original section 2(2)(b) is concerned "shall" should be substituted for "may". This is critical to ensuring that no discrete area becomes overcrowded.

149. Accordingly, I recommend that the Secretary of State exercise his specific powers under section 15A or his general powers under section 6(2) by order or regulation to achieve this. In specifying the requirements in the Certificate, for a particular ground, the local authority should follow the Green Guide criteria; but once that is done and the appropriate figures and terms for that ground have been decided no room should be left for flexibility. By the stage when the local authority has specified the requirements in the Certificate, flexibility has been exhausted.

150. Where a local authority incorporates any other provision of the Green Guide into the Safety Certificate it should make it clear whether that provision is to be complied with absolutely or with discretionary flexibility. For example, paragraph 88 of the Green Guide provides that a ramp subject to heavy crowd flow should preferably not exceed a gradient of 1 in 10. Should a local authority require in a Safety Certificate that a club comply with a Green Guide recommendation as to gradients it should make clear whether it restricts gradients to a maximum of 1 in 10 or whether it leaves flexibility to the discretion of the club.

151. In putting the responsibility for the Safety Certificate upon the local authority, Parliament no doubt had two sound reasons: first, since all sports grounds differ in their layout and environs, local knowledge ought sensibly to be utilised in laying down and monitoring terms and conditions; secondly, a local body can respond quickly to any problem which may arise. Nevertheless, there are two aspects of such local administration which can cause problems.

#### (i) *The Advisory Group*

152. The issue, review and enforcement of Safety Certificates should be based upon efficient professional inspection and opinion and should be conducted in a businesslike manner. In Sheffield, the Safety Certificate procedure both for Hillsborough and for Sheffield United's ground at Bramall Lane was unsatisfactory as I indicated in paragraphs 150 to 158 of my Interim Report. I hope that this was exceptional. It is important that there should be a safety team consisting of appropriate members of the local authority's own staff, representatives of the police, of the fire and ambulance services and of the building authority. What name is given to this group does not in the end matter. At Sheffield it began by being called the Officer Working Party.

When Sheffield City Council took over from South Yorkshire County Council, the name was changed to the "Safety of Sports Grounds Advisory Group", or the Advisory Group for short. In my interim recommendations (Number 17) I said an Advisory Group should be set up. I had in mind the type of safety team already referred to. Apparently, in some quarters, it was thought that I was suggesting a second body called an Advisory Group to advise the safety team. This was not so. Also, in that recommendation, I suggested that representatives of the club and of a recognised supporters' club should be members of the Advisory Group. I have reconsidered this in the light of evidence and advice received. The responsibility for the Safety Certificate is exclusively that of the local authority. **I therefore think that the correct course is that representatives of the club and of a recognised supporters' organisation should be consulted, since they may have relevant suggestions or criticisms to make, but they should not be full members of the team.**

**153. I repeat my recommendation that the Advisory Group's terms of reference should encompass all matters concerned with crowd safety and should require regular visits to the ground and attendance at matches. There should be a chairman from the local authority, and an effective procedure. Resolutions should be recorded and regular written reports should be required for consideration by the local authority.**

*(ii) A Review Body*

154. The other disadvantage of Safety Certificates being issued locally is that different standards may be applied by different authorities even in practically identical situations. A safety team, or some very influential member of it, may be much stricter in one place than the comparable authority elsewhere. I have had complaints that since Hillsborough measures appropriate to a larger ground have been rigidly and inappropriately enforced at grounds with negligible attendance. Conversely, it is possible that too indulgent or lax an approach may be adopted or develop in a particular locality. Again, simply left to solve their own problems, there would be little opportunity for local authorities to learn from comparison with solutions adopted elsewhere. In these circumstances, it has been suggested that there should be a National Forum in which local authority teams could meet periodically to discuss and compare their procedures, and that there should be a national overseeing and inspecting body to monitor and review the consistent discharge by local authorities of their certificating duties. Having discussed this with local authority representatives both in England and in Scotland I am satisfied that two approaches are not necessary. **The better course is to have a National Inspectorate and Review Body. This is now provided for in the Football Spectators Act 1989 by section 13. It is there laid down that the Football Licensing Authority shall have the function of keeping under review the discharge by local authorities of their functions under the 1975 Act. The FLA may, having consulted the local authority and certain local officers, require terms and conditions to be included in any Safety Certificate. The section empowers any inspector appointed by the FLA to make inspections and inquiry as necessary. The local authority may by notice be required to furnish the FLA with information regarding its discharge of its 1975 Act functions.**

155. I warmly welcome the appointment of a national body to conduct these inspecting and reviewing functions. Assuming it successfully discharges those functions, the effect should be to improve the efficiency and consistency of practice with regard to the issue and review of Safety Certificates. This would be enhanced if the review body were to circulate, to all local authorities from time to time, advice based upon their experience of problems and solutions at various grounds. (See also Recommendation 16 of the report of the Technical Working Party at Appendix 3).

156. Because the Football Spectators Act 1989 applies only to association football, the inspecting and reviewing role of the FLA would be exercisable only in relation to Safety Certificates at football grounds. Nevertheless, this remit of the FLA should be extended to cover all grounds designated under the 1975 Act and indeed all grounds requiring Safety Certificates or licences under Parts III and IV of the 1987 Act. Should Part I of the 1989 Act either not be implemented or be substantially delayed, the same functions should be given to another suitably constituted body to cover all sports grounds.

157. It has been suggested that the Health and Safety Executive could fulfil this function if necessary or indeed that it could monitor spectator safety under the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work Etc Act 1974. However, its resources would need to be increased. Moreover, until now the Health and Safety Executive, being primarily concerned with the safety of employees pursuant to the 1974 Act, has not extended its surveillance to include spectators at football grounds. The Home Office evidence on this point is as follows:

"The Health and Safety at Work Act could also be used to enforce general spectator safety at sports grounds. Section 3 of the Act is wide ranging in that it places a duty on an employer to conduct his undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in his employment who may be affected thereby are not exposed to risks to their health or safety. A sports or other entertainment

"undertaking" would fall within this category. However, it is the stated policy of the Health and Safety Commission that, as a general principle, they and the Executive wish to avoid duplication of enforcement with other authorities. The HSE would *not* therefore generally attempt to enforce the requirements of Section 3 of the 1974 Act when they overlap with duties imposed by other more specific legislation where other authorities have responsibility for policy and enforcement. The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 represents more specific legislation and the Health and Safety Executive does not enforce Section 3 of the 1974 Act to secure the safety of spectators at sports grounds. This arrangement is agreed between the Health and Safety Executive and the Home Office."



(b) Future Arrangements

Reference was made to Article 875(2) (Police and Fire Committee 4 September 1990).

There was submitted Report No 1420/91 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration regarding the future arrangements for the issue of Safety Certificates to Football Clubs and associated procedures.

Tayside Ground Safety Inspection Team, comprising representatives of Tayside Police, Tayside Fire Brigade, the Roads and Transport Department, the Law and Administration Department, the Building Control Departments of the District Councils, the Scottish Ambulance Service, the St Andrew's Ambulance Association and the Tayside Health Board, had enjoyed a good relationship with each of the Senior Football Clubs in Tayside and had encountered no difficulty gaining access to the various sports grounds in order to carry out the duties of the Regional Council as the certifying authority. However, it was recommended that, in order to put matters on a formal basis, the members of the Ground Safety Inspection Team be authorised under Section 11 of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 to enter and inspect sports grounds on production of appropriate authority.

SOED Circular No 10/91 provided guidance from the Secretary of State on the implementation in Scotland of Lord Justice Taylor's recommendations in his final report into the Hillsborough Stadium Disaster, and had been issued in March 1991. Where appropriate, local procedures and the Safety Certificates had been amended to take account of suggestions and the Revised Certificates for Season 1991-92 in respect of the designated grounds of Dens Park, Tannadice Park, McDiarmid Park and Gayfield Park were submitted.

Lord Justice Taylor had recommended that an accountable administrative structure should exist to ensure that the functions of the local authority were regularly and effectively supervised by senior officers and elected members and that decisions were properly taken in accordance with the local authority's rules. He had also recommended that, to assist the local authority in exercising its functions, it should set up an Advisory Group if this had not already been done.

In Tayside, the Ground Safety Inspection Team was already established and operational and its procedures and membership complied with Taylor's recommendations. Its meetings were minuted and, in future, it was proposed to produce regular written reports for consideration by the Sub-Committee which the Committee had agreed in principle to establish last year. It was proposed that the Sub-Committee, to be known as the Safety of Sports Grounds Sub-Committee should comprise five members and act with appropriate delegated powers.

Taylor had further proposed that club and recognised supporters' organisations should be consulted, grounds visited and matches attended on a regular basis. The Safety Team had already agreed to implement appropriate arrangements during the coming season to meet this recommendation.

The Committee approved the terms of the Report and agreed: -

- (1) that a Safety of Sports Grounds Sub-Committee be established comprising Councillors William Smith (Convener), George Suckman, William Johnston, Alexander Shand and James Whittet.
- (2) that the following powers be delegated to the Sub-Committee: -
  - (a) the discharge of all the functions of the Council, under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 and the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 including consideration and approval of the terms of Safety Certificates.
  - (b) the approval of amendments and renewals of Safety Certificates,
  - (c) the instruction of action to ensure adherence to the terms of such Certificate,

- (d) the fixing of any charges to be levied in respect of the issue of such Certificates, and
  - (e) the supervision of the operations of, and the receipt of regular reports from, the Tayside Ground Safety Inspection Team.
- (3) to authorise formally, in terms of Section 11 of the Safety of Sports Ground Act 1975, the persons set out in the APPENDIX II to this minute to enter a sports ground at any reasonable time and make such inspection of it and such enquiries relating to it as they consider necessary for the purposes of the Act, and in particular to examine records of attendance at the ground and records relating to the maintenance of safety of the ground and to take copies of such records,
- (4) to authorise the Director of Law and Administration in terms of Section 23 of the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 to issue prohibition notices in terms of that Section restricting the admission of spectators to a sports ground, or any part of a sports ground, if that admission to the sports ground would involve a serious risk to spectators and
- (5) to renew for 1991/92 the Safety Certificates (as revised) for Tannadice Park, Dens Park, McDiarmid Park and Gayfield Park.



## APPENDIX II

The following officers to be authorised in terms of Section 11 of the Safety of Sports Ground Act 1975: -

The Director of Law and Administration of Tayside Regional Council, or his representative, being an officer of the Department of Law and Administration.

The Chief Constable of Tayside Police, or his representative, being a serving police officer of Tayside Police.

The Firemaster of Tayside, or his representative, being a serving officer of Tayside Fire Brigade.

The Director of Roads and Transport of Tayside Regional Council, or his representative, being an officer of the Department of Roads and Transport.

The Chief Ambulance Officer for Tayside, or his representative, being an officer of the Scottish Ambulance Service.

The Director General and Secretary of the St Andrews Ambulance Association, or his representative, being a member of the St Andrews Ambulance Association.

The Principal Building Control Officer of Angus District Council, or his representative, being an officer of the Building Control Department of Angus District Council.

The Principal Assistant (Building Control) of City of Dundee District Council, or his representative, being an officer of the Building Control section of the Chief Engineer's Department of City of Dundee District Council.

The Assistant Director (Environmental Health) Perth and Kinross District Council, or his representative, being an officer of the Environmental Health Department of Perth and Kinross District Council.

The Emergency Planning Officer of Tayside Health Board.



**1. General Safety Certificate for Gayfield Park, Arbroath Football Club**

This is a designated sports ground with a capacity of 6600.

A General Safety Certificate has been in place since 30 September 2013.

The TGSIT made a recommendation on 24/12/20 that this be confirmed for the 2020/2021 season. No objections were received from any members of the group.

**2. General Safety Certificate for Glebe Park, Brechin City Football Club**

This is a regulated stand with a capacity of 4083.

A General Safety Certificate has been in place since 30 June 2012.

The TGSIT made a recommendation on 24/12/20 that this be confirmed for the 2020/2021 season. No objections were received from any members of the group.

**3. General Safety Certificate for Station Park, Forfar Athletic Football Club**

This is a regulated stand with a capacity of 6777.

A General Safety Certificate has been in place since 30 June 2012.

The TGSIT made a recommendation on 24/12/20 that this be confirmed for the 2020/2021 season. No objections were received from any members of the group.

**4. General Safety Certificate for Links Park Stadium, Montrose Football Club**

This is a regulated stand with a capacity of 4936.

A General Safety Certificate has been in place since 30 June 2012.

The TGSIT made a recommendation on 24/12/20 that this be confirmed for the 2020/2021 season. No objections were received from any members of the group.