



THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE
SEVENTH REPORT FROM THE
HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SESSION 2012–13 HC 531

Olympics Security

**Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for the Home Department
by Command of Her Majesty**

November 2012

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GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT OF SEPTEMBER 21 2012: OLYMPICS SECURITY

The Government is grateful to the Home Affairs Select Committee for its report *Olympics Security*.

The summer of 2012 has seen Britain at its best in the work of the many organisations that comprise our security community. They ensured that the United Kingdom hosted a safe and secure Games in keeping with the Olympic spirit. The Government welcomes the Committee's recognition of the hard work and achievements of that community and of the successful contingency planning that was able to deal effectively with problems that arose when G4S said that it was unable to meet its contractual obligations.

G4S accountability and next steps

The Committee's conclusions 1, 3, 5, 10 and 12 point out the significance of the G4S failure to meet its contractual requirements and make a number of points about what steps should be taken to mitigate the most immediate problems caused.

G4S commissioned their own review, supported by PwC, into the failings before the summer, the results of which were published on 28 September. A set of actions they were taking as a result were appended to the report, including changes in their senior management team and new procedures for oversight of major contracts. The Government understand a complaints procedure has also been set up for those who feel they were not treated fairly by G4S and that G4S are working through the claims being made. It is for G4S to indicate in more detail how they will prevent future issues of this sort.

Disclosure

The Government agrees with the Committee's view, expressed in conclusion 2, that transparency and sharing of information is desirable.

The two HMIC reports referenced, which the Home Secretary commissioned, were about LOCOG, including LOCOG's oversight of the G4S contract, and it would not have been appropriate to share them with G4S.

The reports produced by Deloitte and KPMG were not commissioned by, or the property of, the Government.

The Government notes that G4S's recent internal review concluded that: "the failure to disclose these reports to the company was not a significant contributory factor to the company's failure to perform the Olympics contract".

Use of the Military

The Government endorses the Committee's appreciation, noted at conclusion 4, of the work of the Armed Forces and the police.

The United Kingdom has previously had a good track record of hosting significant sporting and other events very successfully using the private sector. The scale of the Olympics venue security task was however unprecedented. Venue security is not something that the Armed Forces would be trained or equipped for under normal circumstances. The Ministry of Defence holds elements of the Armed Forces at readiness as a routine, to meet a range of contingencies at home and overseas. These standing formations formed the basis of the bespoke contingency arrangements created for the Olympics and were able to be drawn on when venue security numbers showed a shortfall.

Financial sanctions

Conclusions 6, 7 and 8 relate to the financial settlement which LOCOG and G4S might eventually reach. Negotiations between the two organisations continue. The Government hopes that these negotiations will be resolved rapidly so that the final position is understood.

Future use of G4S by HMG

The Committee seeks assurance in conclusions 11 and 13 that HMG will exercise caution in terms of its future engagement with both G4S and other private companies bidding for Government contracts.

The Government, through the Cabinet Office Crown Representative network and supported by departments, will continue to review the performance of its cross government strategic suppliers, of which G4S is one.

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General has defined a policy with respect to the performance management of strategic suppliers. The responsibility for execution of this policy lies with the Chief Procurement Officer, in coordination with Departments and the Crown Representatives. This is designed to ensure that those strategic suppliers identified as being high risk in terms of their performance across government will be monitored by the Cabinet Office, informed by Departments and also the Crown Representative commercial network.

Policy documents relating to this area are available at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/type/1384> and <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/list-strategic-suppliers>



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