

LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

COST AND USE OF GOVERNMENT TICKETS

INFORMATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT (MARIA MILLER)

Further to my Written Ministerial Statement of 18 January 2013, this document lists recipients of Government-purchased tickets for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the cost of the ticket and the Department which invited the guest; the numbers of tickets purchased by the Government for troops and the School Games winners and the tickets available to staff to purchase through ballot. The cost of Government hospitality for the Games is also given. The information also lists the Ministers and senior Parliamentarians who received accreditation for the Games and sets out the role of Ministerial and Parliamentary “ambassadors” for the Games and who they were.

Government Strategic Objectives for the London 2012 Games

2. The Government agreed the following strategic objectives for the London 2012 Games against which it issued invitations to individuals to attend opening and closing ceremonies and sport events:

- Encouraging Growth
- Encouraging health and sports participation
- Encouraging community engagement and volunteering

Government-purchased Tickets for the London 2012 Games

3. The Government Olympic Executive at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UK Trade and Investment purchased an allocation of 4,016 tickets to be used in support of its priorities. These tickets accounted for less than 0.04% of the total number of tickets sold for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Government invited 3,931 guests, comprising of business and community leaders who were hosted by 85 Government Ministers.

As well as advancing the priorities of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Government Olympic Executive’s allocation of tickets was shared with 9 other Government Departments in support of their Departmental priorities.

A summary of all the tickets purchased by the Government is given at **Annex A**.

4. The detail of those in receipt of tickets for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games is given at **Annex B**.

5. The detail of those in receipt of tickets for sporting events of the Olympic and Paralympic Games is given at **Annex C**.

Tickets for Troops

6. The Government purchased 1050 tickets to the Olympics at a cost of £36,050 and 264 tickets to the Paralympics at a cost of £32,600 (which included 64 tickets to the Paralympic Opening Ceremony) under the Tickets for Troops programme.

School Games Winners

7. The Government purchased 258 tickets to the Olympics at a cost of £9,020 and 10 tickets at £10 each for the Paralympics for School Games' winners.

Staff Ballot

8. Staff working on the Games had an opportunity to participate in a ballot to purchase a number of tickets for sport sessions. Staff purchased 2338 tickets for a variety of sport sessions across the Olympic and Paralympic Games, all at face value. There was no net cost to the public purse.

Unused Tickets

9. The priority was to resell unused tickets via the LOCOG ticketing portal wherever possible. There were occasions however, where last-minute cancellations were outwith LOCOG's resale window and tickets were at risk of being unused. In these limited instances, Departments worked to minimise empty seats by releasing tickets to Departmental officials and others who could fill seats at the last minute.

Government Hospitality

10. The Government hosted receptions ahead of the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games in support of its strategic objectives for London 2012. The cost of these four receptions was £349,153 with some 503 guests attending. In addition, the Government purchased hospitality for guests on the Olympic Park, at Paralympics GB House and at the London Legacy Development Corporation. The cost of this hospitality was £203,706.

Accreditation

11. The International Olympic and Paralympic Committees accredited 42 Government Ministers to attend the London 2012 Games. The detail is given in **Annex D**. In addition, the International Olympic and Paralympic Committees accredited a number of others including the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition (Ed Miliband), the Speaker of the House of Common (John Bercow), the Speaker of the House of Lords (Baroness D'Souza) and the Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Harriet Harman). They also accredited First Ministers from the Devolved Administrations (Alex Salmond, Scotland, Peter Robinson, Northern Ireland, Carwyn Jones, Wales) the Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland (Martin McGuinness) and the Sports Ministers (Caral Ni Chailin, Northern Ireland, Shona Robinson, Scotland and Huw Lewis, Wales). Don Foster, Tessa Jowell and Menzies Campbell were also accredited through their positions on the Olympic Board.

Accreditation entitled the holder to access sporting events, hospitality and in some cases transport rights, but no cost was incurred to the Government.

Parliamentary "Ambassadors"

12. At the invitation of the then Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, 65 Ministers and Parliamentarians from a range of parties, acted as "ambassadors" at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Ambassadors fulfilled two roles: to act as hosts for guests of the Government on and off the Olympic Park and to represent the Government and cross-party support for the Games at Olympic and Paralympic sporting events. Ambassadors were not paid or accredited and were supplied with Government-purchased tickets to fulfil their roles. Each ambassador was invited to purchase a ticket from the Government supply to enable their spouse or partner to accompany them at a sport session.

13. The list of ambassadors is at **Annex E**