

Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport

Shona Robison MSP

T: 0845 774 1741

E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB



8 November 2013

Dear Philip

Thank you again for your letter of 18 September 2013 regarding the provision of military personnel to support flag teams at the 2014 Commonwealth Games. I understand that your officials are already making good progress in their discussions with the Organising Committee in delivering on that commitment.

You also mentioned in your letter other requests for military support to the Games, excluding those relating to national security. While my officials have been discussing the detail of these with yours for some time now, I think this would be an appropriate opportunity to summarise these for you and request that you support these as well. These relate to the opening ceremony and as I am sure you are aware, the creative content of this is closely guarded secret and I would appreciate your discretion.

These include:

- The provision of a 30 piece pipe band, with a preference for the Royal Highland Fusiliers.
- Trumpeters for a royal fanfare.
- A fly past by the Red Arrows
- A fly past by a Sea King search and rescue helicopter

As with flag teams, I would be grateful if you could treat these requests in the context of an event of national significance. An early indication on the availability and potential cost to the Organising Committee of these assets would be much appreciated. As with flag teams, the Organising Committee would make every effort to provide catering and transport support.

Yours sincerely

SHONA ROBISON

Cc Secretary of State for Scotland