

Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport
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The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Secretary of State for Defence
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

The Rt Hon Michael Moore MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
Scotland Office
Whitehall
London SW1A 2AU



27 August 2013

Dear Philip & Michael

Glasgow 2014 Request for Military Aid to the Civil Authority

I am writing under Military Aid to the Civil Authority (MACA) to request an urgent decision on support from the Armed Forces for military Flag Parties at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

The Organising Committee for the Glasgow Games are keen to replicate the excellent support the Armed Forces provided for Flag Parties at the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. For the London Games, 176 individuals from all three services of the Armed Forces were chosen for Flag Parties at more than 100 Team Welcome and 805 Medal Ceremonies, as well as the Opening Ceremony. For reference, I have attached images of these events in **Annex A**. Home Nation Armed Forces have also supported Flag Parties at both the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi and the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

The Glasgow Commonwealth Games will take place between 23 July and 3 August 2014, with Team Welcome Ceremonies beginning from 13 July 2014. Working with the Ministry of Defence, the Organising Committee has estimated that they would require 72 Armed Forces personnel for Flag Parties to support the Team Welcome Ceremonies, the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and the Medal Ceremonies. We have received guidance from Headquarters 51 (Scottish) Brigade in the development of the MACA request and our submission to the Secretary of State for Scotland is attached in **Annex B**.

However, I understand that if the Ministry of Defence agree to the provision of Armed Forces personnel for Flag Parties, they are currently proposing to charge the Organising Committee the full cost recovery for this service; estimated at £250,000. This is likely to be prohibitive

and require the Organising Committee to choose an alternative option. I would be grateful if the Secretary of State for Defence could reconsider this position. The Organising Committee would aim to minimise the costs as far as possible and already intend to provide Armed Forces personnel with access to catering and transport services.

If the Ministry of Defence refuse this request, if their costs are prohibitive or if no decision has been made within the timescales below, the Organising Committee will have to commence their alternative option of recruiting volunteers to staff Flag Parties. In order to progress this they require to issue invitations for interviews by Friday 6 September. Therefore, it is essential that they are informed of the UK Government decision before this date.

As with the Olympic and Paralympic Games, I believe that this is an important opportunity for the Armed Forces to play a prominent role in another event of national significance. The Games will draw attention from across the Commonwealth with 1 million tickets being sold for events and over 1.5 billion people expected to watch the television coverage.

During his visit to Glasgow last week the Prime Minister reiterated the commitment given in the Coalition Programme for Government that the UK Government would work with the Scottish Government to deliver a successful Commonwealth Games. I believe this would be an excellent opportunity to further demonstrate that commitment and I would be very grateful if you could both give this matter your urgent consideration.

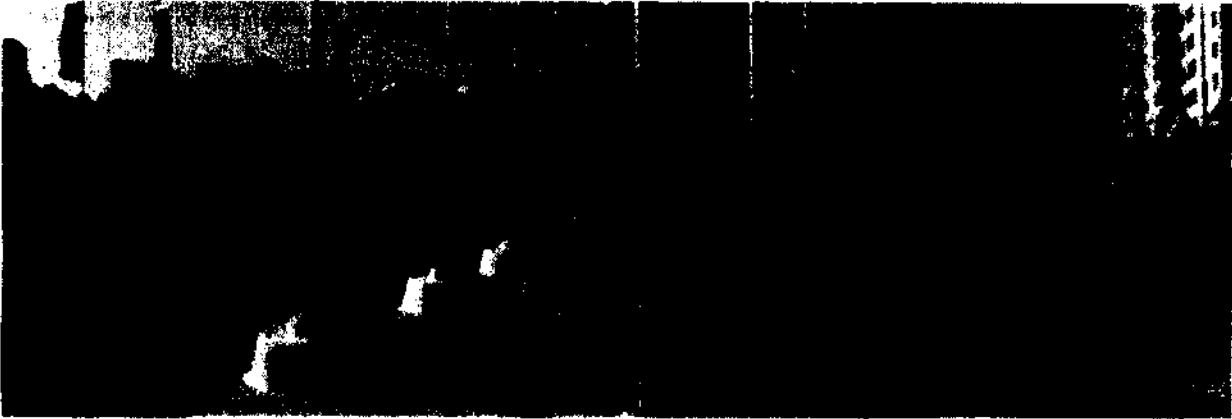
Yours sincerely



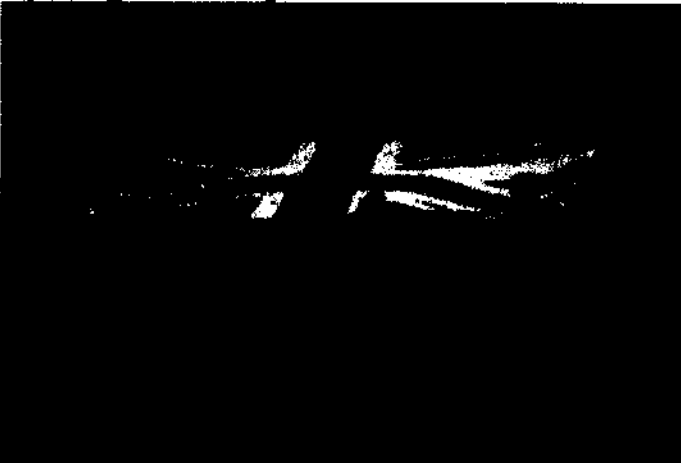
SHONA ROBISON

IMAGES OF LONDON OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC FLAG PARTIES

Team Welcome Ceremonies



Opening Ceremony



Medal Ceremonies



MACA REQUEST – MILITARY FLAG TEAMS FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Location: Scottish Government, St Andrew's House, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG			
Summary of event: The Commonwealth Games will take place in Glasgow between 23 July and 3 August 2014. As part of the Medal Ceremonies Teams, HM Forces personnel are requested to form the 72-strong Flag Teams and carry out flag ceremonies as per the Glasgow 2014 Organising Committee's programme of events.			
What other options have been considered, e.g. mutual aid or private/commercial options? The Organising Committee are keen to maintain the Games custom of Home Nation Armed Forces conducting all Flag Raising ceremonies. This has the full support of Scottish Government Games Division.			
What are you trying to achieve? A level of ceremonial delivery which complements the achievements of medal-winning athletes.			
What is the effect required? The provision of a military flag raising capability in ceremonial Service uniform for the Team Welcome Ceremonies, the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and at all medal ceremonies throughout the 2014 Commonwealth Games.			
Is there a requirement for armed military assistance? No			
Timing: When do you want the effect delivered by? The Team Welcome Ceremonies begin on a rolling basis from 13 Jul until the commencement of the Games on 23 Jul. The Closing Ceremony is on 3 Aug 14.			
Requesting Authority: Date: 23 August 2013 Requested by: Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport, Scottish Government			
MACP request agreed by:			
Scotland Office	Date:	Time:	Signature:
MOD	Date:	Time:	Signature:
COBR	Date:	Time:	Signature: