



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

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Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
House of Commons
London
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13 November 2025

Dear Chair

Accounting Officer Assessment: UEFA European Championships 2028 (EURO 2028) Programme

It is normal practice for Accounting Officers to scrutinise significant policy proposals or plans to start or vary major projects, and then assess whether they measure up to the standards set out in Managing Public Money. From April 2017, the government has committed to make a summary of the key points from these assessments available to Parliament for projects within the Government's Major Projects Portfolio (GMPP).

Background and Context

UEFA announced the UK and Ireland as successful hosts for UEFA EURO 2028 in October 2023, following a competitive bid process with Turkey. UEFA EURO 2028 will be the biggest sporting event our islands have ever jointly hosted, building on our world-leading track record of delivering major sporting events.

According to updated analysis, UEFA EURO 2028 is estimated to generate socio-economic benefits of £3.2bn across the UK (£3.6bn across the UK and Ireland). The tournament will help to deliver on the government's mission to kickstart economic growth by creating jobs, driving regional prosperity and encouraging visitors to the UK. It will enrich lives, provide opportunities to participate, to volunteer and for businesses, bring communities together through shared national moments and showcase the best of the UK to the world. Government and Football Partners are committing around £45 million to a central legacy and impact fund to help deliver a lasting legacy for communities across the UK and Ireland.

The UEFA European Championships is globally the second largest football tournament, held every four years. The men's tournament was last fully hosted in the UK (England) in 1996, with England and Scotland also hosting matches during EURO 2020 (hosted in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic). The tournament forms a key part of our pipeline of major events over the next decade.

The successful UK and Ireland bid was delivered through a collaboration of five government partners, five respective Football Associations and UK Sport. These partners are now working alongside UEFA (the rights-holder), UK & Ireland 2028 Ltd. (a private company established by the host associations to coordinate domestic partners' tournament hosting responsibilities), host cities, stadia, police and other stakeholders to deliver the tournament and associated legacy and impact projects that will deliver significant benefits long after the tournament concludes.

This AO assessment considers the four accounting officer standards of regularity, propriety, value for money and feasibility.

Regularity

I assess the EURO 2028 programme as regular. Funding for the delivery of the tournament has been approved by HM Treasury Approval Process in March 2023, and has been allocated up to FY28/29 at Spending Review 2025. The budget for the remainder of the programme has been pre-committed to. This has confirmed the budget forecast of up to £557m to support delivery of the tournament and realisation of the associated benefits.

We are confident that we have the relevant powers to fund all areas committed to in the budget. UK Government funding for UK & Ireland 2028 Ltd. and host cities will be made available through UK Sport. The funding provisions in s50 UK Internal Market Act 2020 and s3 Physical Training and Recreation Act 1937 enable the UK Government to Grant in Aid to UK Sport for the purposes of supporting EURO 2028 and related legacy spending. UK Sport's 1997 Royal Charter then gives it the power to onward fund across the UK. Funding for other government departments can be made available under existing mechanisms. Spending will be compliant with UK law, including rules on subsidy control.

Summary: *I assess that there are no issues of regularity.*

Propriety

I assess the EURO 2028 programme as proper. It is compliant with Parliamentary control procedures and expectations. Careful consideration has been given to interaction with other parts of the public sector and the programme's consistency with overall government policy. Commitments made by the Government during the bid process were consistent with UK Government principles of propriety and the actions of UK & Ireland 2028 Ltd. during the delivery of the tournament will also be appropriately consistent. As set out above, the budget for FY26/27-28/29 was confirmed at Spending Review 2025 and the budget forecast was announced via Written Ministerial Statement on 13 November 2025.

Summary: I assess that there are no proprietary issues.

Value for Money

The EURO 2028 programme will be delivered in accordance with HMT's Managing Public Money guidance to ensure best value for public sector investment. The cost benefit analysis conducted for the Full Business Case demonstrated that UEFA EURO 2028 could be hosted in the UK and Ireland in a manner in which the public sector investment can be justified by the benefits. As outlined above, according to updated analysis, UEFA EURO 2028 is estimated to generate socio-economic benefits of £3.2bn across the UK (£3.6bn across the UK and Ireland).

Sport¹ contributed £53.6bn of direct GVA (Gross Value Added) to the UK economy in 2021, and hosting major sporting events plays a significant role in delivering continued growth across many of our key sectors. For example, the Office for National Statistics credited the Women's EUROs and Commonwealth Games with helping the UK's economic return to growth in July 2022, with GDP rising 0.2% between June-July 2022 following a drop of 0.6% the previous month.

Summary: I assess that there are no value for money issues

Feasibility

The EURO 2028 programme must be delivered on time in June/July 2028.

The UK and Ireland successfully won the rights to host UEFA EURO 2028 in October 2023 and the programme subsequently moved into the transition phase (until March 2025), during which the partnership focussed on putting in place firm foundations for delivery. This included the launch in March 2025 of the main delivery body - UK & Ireland 2028 Ltd. The programme moved into the delivery phase from April 2025 onwards, with UK&I 2028 Ltd. now operational.

The Full Business Case sets out a thorough evidence base for feasibility and I am confident that the tournament can be delivered on time and within budget. The UK has a world-leading track record of delivering major sporting events (including, in recent years, the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025, Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 and the Rugby League World Cup in 2022). The Football Associations have also delivered recent UEFA events such as the Women's UEFA EURO 2022 (England) and matches during UEFA EURO 2020 (Glasgow and London), the 2024 UEFA Champions League Final (London), and the 2024 UEFA Europa League Final (Dublin).

The tournament is largely reliant on existing stadium, transport and accommodation infrastructure. Successful delivery of the tournament is dependent on a range of public and private partners across the UK and Ireland. Robust governance, programme management and assurance measures have been put in place to coordinate delivery and ensure value for money.

DCMS will continue to undertake close monitoring of delivery risks and ensure that mitigating actions are taken if necessary. The programme joined the Government Major Projects

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sport-satellite-account-for-the-uk-2024-research-into-a-new-measure-for-estimating-the-value-of-sport/sport-satellite-account-for-the-uk-2024-key-findings>

Portfolio in January 2024 and, as such, is subject to annual gateway assurance reviews overseen by the National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority.

Summary: Based on current plans and contingency arrangements, I assess there are no feasibility issues

Conclusion

As the Accounting Officer for the EURO 2028 Programme, I considered this assessment and approved it on 13/11/2025, which now replaces the previous assessment dated March 2024.

I have prepared this summary to set out the key points which informed my decision. If any of these factors change materially during the lifetime of this project, I undertake to prepare a revised summary, setting out my assessment of them. This summary will be published on the government's website (GOV.UK). Copies will be deposited in the Library of the House of Commons, and sent to the Comptroller and Auditor General and Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Storey', with a stylized, elongated final stroke.

Susannah Storey CB
Permanent Secretary