

Commonwealth Games England Consultation Response

Q1: Do you think that the UK should continue to protect certain major events through live or deferred coverage on free-to-air television? Please give a reason for your response:

Yes. Commonwealth Games England believes that inspirational events such as the Commonwealth Games should be available to the viewing public in the UK as widely as possible. Performances at the Commonwealth Games can provide a significant lift to the morale of the English public. They can inspire young people to take up sport competitively or simply as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Q2: Do you think that events other than sporting events should be listed and if so, please give your reason.

Commonwealth Games England (CGE) believes it is not suitably-qualified to make a response to this question.

Q3. Do you agree that this should remain the essential criterion test? If you do not agree, please explain why and please indicate what you consider should be the essential criterion in a sporting context.

Yes, we believe the criteria should remain the same.

Q4. If your answer to Q2 was that non-sporting events should also be considered for listing, what might an essential criterion be?

Not applicable

Q5. Do you consider that these characteristics remain appropriate? If you do not, or consider that additional characteristics should be included, please explain why.

Yes, CGE believes that these characteristics remain appropriate. The Commonwealth Games has a long history of being broadcast free-to-air. It is likely to command a large television audience, especially in the next five years with a home Olympic Games to follow and a "home" Commonwealth Games in Scotland in 2014.

Q6. Are these the appropriate other factors that the Secretary of State should take into account when considering whether or not to list an event? If not, or you consider that additional factors should be taken into account, please explain why.

Yes, CGE believes that these are appropriate. In addition the Commonwealth Games holds a unique place in our nation's history and reaches a multi-cultural audience.

Q7. Do you agree that both an A and B list should be maintained? If not, please explain why.

CGE believes that whilst some events might not warrant complete and comprehensive coverage, that there should be an ability to protect at least a highlights package for the biggest available audience for the others. Therefore we believe the concept of an A and B list is a sound one.

Q8. Are there any issues that you would wish to bring to our attention in regard to the way in which the listing arrangements are given practical effect by Ofcom?

No CGE does not wish to bring anything to attention in answering this question.

Q9. Which Events should be Listed?

Do you think that the Secretary of State should:

- leave the current arrangements unchanged;
- move existing events between the A and B lists;
- add any entirely new events; or
- remove any events that are currently listed?

Please give reasons for your answers.

The CGE believes that the Commonwealth Games, as major Games with a unique history, should be transferred to the A List. This would safeguard the Games for the widest possible TV audience.

Q10. If you have suggested that live coverage of any such tournaments should be listed do you think that:

- the entire tournament should be listed; or
- only selected stages, events or matches involving national teams or representatives?

Please give reasons for your view and, if you favour selected listing, please specify which tournaments and which stages, events or matches.

The CGE believes that the complete Games programme in athletics and swimming should be listed and all other sports from post-group match and/or semi-final stage onwards.

Q11. Please suggest which non-sporting events you would like to see listed and why.

Not Applicable

Q12. Do you have any other issues that you would like the Panel to take into account in considering what its recommendations should be?

No further issues to raise.

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