

NOTE OF MEETING: 27 APRIL 2010

SAFETY CERTIFICATE: PITTODRIE

Attendees: Brenda Flaherty (BF); Caroline Treanor; Kevin Lackie (KL) and Kevin Coutts (KC) (Grampian Fire and Rescue Service - GFRS).

GFRS advised they are not the enforcing authority in terms of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (The Act) for the Sports Ground Safety Certificate. The Local Authority is. Whilst they are the enforcing authority for most relevant premises within the 2005 Act, they are not in relation to Pittodrie. Whilst they will not take enforcement action, they will audit back of house issues – but not the sports ground part of things. It is not their statutory role.

They advised that Strathclyde have nothing to do with sports grounds. Tayside and Lothian and Borders Fire Service have various limited involvement eg: functions suites but not stands. GFRS are more like Tayside in their approach.

GFRS advised that, in terms of the Act, the Duty Holder at Pittodrie will be the responsible person with regards to fire safety. The Local Authority, whilst the enforcing authority, are not responsible for fire safety.

BF indicated that she is concerned to see less GFRS involvement. She indicated that she would be very concerned if the local authority did not have access to advice on fire issues, with reference to Pittodrie. She asked if KC would continue to attend SPAWG meetings. She indicated that the local authority as enforcing authority may wish to take advice from GFRS as it does not have expertise in relation to fire issues. She does not want to be in a position that the enforcing authority would have no one to turn to for advice on fire issues. This would be of concern to Elected members.

KL advised that GFRS would still be available for the immediate future to offer advice. KC will continue to attend meetings of the SGAWG meantime, but he could not guarantee for how long. He advised that there are other agencies from whom we could also obtain advice.

KL asked whether the local authority could buy in the advice service. BF advised that buying in independent fire advice is not an option and she thought members would expect GFRS to take on this role.

KL advised that the position of GFRS is flowing from the Act and indicated that we may wish to look at GFRS Enforcement Policy dated May 2009 on the GFRS website. GFRS no longer issue Fire Safety Certificates nor do they inspect or write reports. They undertake audits on an ad hoc basis. Responsibility for fire safety ultimately lies with the Duty Holder.

BF asked when the next Safety Certificate is due for review would GFRS look over the relevant provisions in relation to fire safety.

She advised that the enforcing authority would require to ask GFRS if there were any changes to fire safety provisions that would require to be changed.

KL said this advice would be available but in the longterm GFRS would be considering their involvement. They also no longer undertake match day inspections.

KL advised he will discuss the outcome of the meeting with his line manager, Gordon Moir.

He will confirm the GFRS position in writing.

BF will liaise with the Convener, Councillor Reynolds regarding convening a meeting of the Sports Grounds Advisory Group, probably on 8th July when the SGAWG was due to meet anyway. KL will be invited to attend also.