

My Ref: NH/CLJ  
Your Ref:

21<sup>st</sup> December 2017



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FAO: Russell George AM

Chair of the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee

National Assembly for Wales

I refer to your letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 regarding transport planning and infrastructure impact on major events at the Principality Stadium.

I am able to provide a response to the questions asked as follows:

- **What steps have been taken since Rugby World Cup 2015 to improve transport planning and delivery for major events in Cardiff?**

The Principality Stadium chairs a monthly meeting which debriefs after stadium events, looks ahead to future planned events and also discusses potential events that the stadium is interested in hosting. The attendees consist of a number of key stakeholders such as the Council, Welsh Government, Network Rail & rail operator representatives, South Wales Police and British Transport Police.

- **What arrangements were in place to meet the needs of those travelling to and from Cardiff on 28<sup>th</sup> October?**

Throughout the planning process it was very clear that there would be restrictions on trains going back eastwards to London, and this was highlighted to the event promoter. The local South Wales rail network however was enhanced to provide additional services between Cardiff and the Valleys for the event. In addition, Park & Ride facilities were provided, and these were available to pre-book from the time that tickets for the event went on sale.

An event specific 'fan' guide was produced, which was emailed to all ticket holders. This guide gave clear advice in terms of rail restrictions and highlighted a need to plan travel arrangements in advance. Park & Ride was available for pre-book and information on National coach services and the additional local rail services was provided.

Advance electronic signage displayed the event date along the strategic routes in South Wales in advance of the event, so that regular road users were aware of the event and could therefore plan their journey accordingly to avoid peak event travel times.



- **What particular challenges did this boxing event present and how were these considered in the planning process?**

Cardiff City were playing at home on this date and the Motorpoint Arena had a full attendance event taking place. Therefore the transport planning sought to segregate those travelling to the Cardiff City football match from those traveling to the Boxing event. All football traffic was advised to leave the M4 at junction 33 and travel along the A4232 to the Leckwith stadium; whilst all boxing traffic was advised to leave the M4 at junctions 29 & 30 and use the Pentwyn Park & Ride facility on the A48. This left junction 32 and the A470 into the city centre for the Motorpoint Arena event traffic. This segregation worked well and the road network coped with all the events.

However, as with all major events in Cardiff the demand for taxis post event exceeded supply. CCTV footage has confirmed that there were queues for taxis on the lower section of St Mary St until 5am. Unfortunately this is not uncommon on major event days and whilst there are a large number of licenced taxis operating in the city centre, the Council has little control over what hours the drivers choose to work.

- **How did development work on Capitol Square affect operations?**

The development is subject to a planning condition that requires the developer to ensure that stadium events are properly managed. It is our assertion that the development did not create any additional impacts on the 28<sup>th</sup> October Boxing event.

- **What steps were taken to mitigate the impact of works on the Severn Tunnel and Brynglas Tunnels?**

This is a matter for Welsh Government, as trunk network manager to address.

- **What was your assessment of the effectiveness of travel planning arrangements for the event? How many people were negatively affected by delays?**

On the whole the event was well planned and managed effectively. The timeframe within which taxi queues were present was much later than has normally been experienced. The Council received one complaint regarding this event which related to the long wait for taxis.

- **What lessons have been learnt from this event, and how will any lessons be applied to future events?**

The advance discussions with the stadium and the resultant travel guide provided to those attending the event worked well. It is important to ensure that those attending the event have accurate information to allow them to plan their travel arrangements in advance. In future the fan guide will high-light the demand that is likely for taxis, which again will allow those attending the event to adjust their travel plans accordingly.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Hanratty', written in a cursive style.

**Neil Hanratty**  
**Director Economic Development**