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Convener
European and External Relations Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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7 January 2014

Dear Christina.

Thank you for your letter of 24 September to the Deputy First Minister, regarding the meeting between the European and External Relations Committee and Myria Vassiliadou, the EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator. The discussion had covered the issue of a potential increase in human trafficking as a result of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, and other major sporting events planned for the future in Scotland. You asked for information on the Scottish Government's risk assessment of this issue, and, with apologies for the delay, I am replying as Minister responsible for Commonwealth Games and Sport.

You will be aware that Police Scotland has overall responsibility for the co-ordination and delivery of safety and security for the Commonwealth Games. Human trafficking is an integral part of crime and intelligence planning, and has been one of the strands of the Commonwealth Games intelligence requirement throughout the planning phase. Whilst there is no specific intelligence at this stage to suggest a threat to the Commonwealth Games from human trafficking, the intelligence requirement continues to be driven across all internal and external stakeholders, to ensure that any emerging issues are identified and addressed.

The Police Scotland Commonwealth Games Delivery Team, and the Police Scotland National Human Trafficking Unit (NHTU) has reviewed lessons learned from the London Olympics to inform their approach. Best practice from the multi-agency Human Trafficking and London 2012 Network Group has been factored into the planning process for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

A Commonwealth Games Action Plan has been developed to address specific issues in the lead up to and during the Games from a trafficking perspective. This includes prevention work to ensure that Glasgow and beyond is a hostile environment for such activity.

As Games infrastructure is developed, Police Scotland has been working with the construction industry to raise awareness of human trafficking and forced labour issues.

A Games-specific toolkit has been prepared by the Police Scotland Delivery Team and NHTU, designed to incorporate all relevant national guidance into a bespoke human trafficking guide for officers and staff deployed to the Games. The NHTU chairs a quarterly multi-agency meeting, where Glasgow 2014 issues are addressed as part of the wider Human Trafficking agenda. A Glasgow 2014 sub-group has been formed and will convene regularly in advance of the Games in order to identify emerging issues and facilitate stakeholder engagement.

Best wishes,
Shona

SHONA ROBISON