

**ISSUES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ACTION ON FROM GOVERNMENT**

Issues where EIF would like to see Government support:

1. **Interpretation of legislation/Guidance:** There is a considerable inconsistency between Government departments and local authorities over the interpretation of legislation and, particularly, guidance such as the Purple Guide. We would like to see central government, particularly politicians and the Department of Culture Media and Sport pushing for greater consistency and supporting the Purple Guide as the authoritative guidance for outdoor events.
2. **Centralised Events Department:** It would greatly help the outdoor events industry if there was a centralised section in the Department of Culture – with representation from different key departments – that could help the industry achieve a more co-ordinated approach to legislation etc. and help the industry resolve issues such as police charging to create a more consistent and healthy environment for outdoor events. Also to support a more positive attitude from local government. This would also help to resolve some of the problems of too many government departments being involved which creates enormous problems for the industry. The sports industry has this through the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) but outdoor events which are often bigger but involve the same risks have nothing.
3. **Security and Crowd Control Issues:** There are problems on a number of fronts with regard to security, crowd control and policing at events which could be better resolved with support from the Home Office. The Securities Industry Authority is in turmoil, police charging is inconsistent etc.
4. **Selling UK expertise abroad:** The UK outdoor event industry has been seen as a shining example around the world and, indeed, the original Purple Guide was adopted extensively in other countries. The new Purple Guide does not get the support it deserves from UK Government and, as a consequence, other countries are copying it and getting the commitment, finance and general support from their Governments to promote their expertise at the expense of the UK industry. The UK Government could help the industry export its expertise by supporting and promoting the Guide and the industry’s expertise abroad.
5. **Traffic Regulation Order Costs:** These are causing problems due to the high costs involved.
6. **Secondary Ticketing and Touts:** There needs to be more control of the secondary ticketing market.
7. **Procurement:** The tendering and e-procurement systems are too cumbersome and costly. They are also too focused around prices rather than the quality of workmanship with the result that contracts are given to organisations that do not always comply with good practice in the industry. Central Government should provide better advice on procurement that puts quality before price.
8. **Immigration:** There is already increasing pressure on the employment market with immigration numbers falling and this is likely to impact the events sector, particularly with respect to casual labour upon which the industry relies. Any restrictions on numbers of people from the EC or beyond entering the country and available for work will have an impact on the ability of the industry to operate effectively and safely.
9. **Training and Standards:** Because the industry cannot provide high volume and consistent work, most of the services are supported by a casual work force. There are several issues:
* Flexible working patterns to suit both the worker and the employer.
* Ensure that any protective legislation for the worker does not inhibit their ability to choose work and does not prohibit the employer from offering work.

This applies to Security , cleaners, riggers, drivers, car park personnel, ticketing outlets, first aiders, production staff etc .

1. **Apprenticeships:** The underpinning training required by all casual staff whatever their role is not conducive to the Apprenticeship levy. The levy is diverting training funds away from the casual workers. There is a significant shortfall in security and stewarding numbers as highlighted by the joint UKCMA and FSOA survey in February 2017. Any shortage of trained labour will increase risk and has the propensity to impact on worker and public safety.
* Can funding be diverted from the Apprenticeship Levy to support the casual workforce?
* Many casual workers go on to form careers and business within the industry.
* Investment in training improves safety at all levels of service delivery.