

**Ministerial Event** – Premier Sports Cup Final: Celtic v Rangers

**Venue** – Hampden Park, Glasgow

**Date** – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Minister(s) in attendance** – Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Angela Constance

**Supporting Officials** – [redacted – personal information], Active Scotland

### **Key Points**

- It was noted that prior to the game kicking off there had been instances of trouble in Glasgow city centre, with fans lighting flares and charging through town. Police Scotland stated officers had been authorised to use stop and search powers under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public order Act 1994.
- As the teams ran on to the pitch both sets of fans used pyrotechnics causing smoke in the stadium and a delay to kick off. Pyrotechnics were then used sporadically throughout the game.
- At specific points during the game fans from both sides ran on to the concourse. This caused a delay in proceedings after the full-time whistle. Ms Constance observed how the stewards and Police handled the situation.

### **Notes of Meeting**

- There was no formal agenda or sit down meeting, the format of the event was informal engagement amongst attendees.
- The Cabinet Secretary met with Calum Beattie (SPFL Company Secretary and Chief Operating Officer) to discuss the use of pyrotechnics at football in Scotland. Both agreed that each stakeholder needs to play their part to reduce this going forward.
- During the conversation Ms Constance and Calum Beattie discussed the limitations in current FBO legislation that is being explored via the working group as well as discussions around the SPFL engagement with Policing challenges in preventing pyrotechnics being brought into the stadium and related matters regarding stewarding at these events.
- Calum also discussed the SPFL's stance on alcohol being served in Stadia and potential solutions to addressing pyrotechnics.
- The Cabinet Secretary met with Neil Doncaster (SPFL CEO), they discussed the use of pyrotechnics but also discussed the positive impact that football can have in the community and the influence these clubs have.
- The Cabinet Secretary met with Fiona McIntyre (SWPL Managing Director) and discussed the women's game. They discussed the challenges of the women's game being very different to the men's.

### **Comments**

- Ms Constance would like to understand if an amendment to the current FBO would be primary or secondary legislation.
- Ms Constance is interested in visiting The Rangers and/or Celtic Cashback programmes to understand the impact of these in the community.

- Ms Constance looks forward to hearing an update from the working group on Pyrotechnics.
- Ms Constance advised that she will be having further discussions with Ms Brown and officials this coming week and shared some of her impressions of events within the stadium.