

# NOGOE

**No to Greenwich Olympic Equestrian Events**  
17 City Business Centre, Lower Road, London SE16 2XB  
[www.nogoe2012.com](http://www.nogoe2012.com)

The Rt Hon The Baroness Neville-Jones DCMG  
Minister of State for Security  
The House of Lords  
London  
SW1P 3

5 June 2010

Dear Lady Neville-Jones

I am writing on behalf of NOGOE, a group of local residents opposed to the holding of the equestrian Olympics in Greenwich Park, to express our concern at the lack of information available to the public regarding security, as well as the inability of the organisers to indicate the scale of the proposed budget.

Greenwich Park, as you may be aware, is one of the smaller Royal Parks, in an urban location surrounded on three sides by residential properties. Some thirty years ago it was the scene of an incident where someone in a neighbouring property was shot by an IRA gunman from within the Park. Plans for the Olympic event show that there will be a security fence, though the finer points of detail (along with dozens of other unresolved items) are not yet clear. This, together with the necessary security lights and alarm systems, will cause disturbance to local inhabitants, as well as to the abundant wildlife, both animals and plants, for which the Park is known and loved.

NOGOE has repeatedly asked LOCOG for an estimate of the security budget, but up to now the answer has always been that this is a matter for the police. The police however say that it is a matter for the Home Office. The Home Office don't say anything. Since the formation of the new Government we have all been made aware of the need to make savings in all areas.

We understand that in the recent Winter Olympics in Vancouver the original security budget of \$165m. ended up as more than \$1billion. It seems likely that with such vague notions of costings as have been evident so far the budget for 2012 (and indeed for the test event in 2011, for which the details are even sketchier) will be exceeded. Simon Jenkins in the Guardian of 4 June refers to "the police budget for just two weeks of games having risen to \$800m." Another serious consideration was voiced in the Guardian on 31 May in an article pointing out the risk to cultural and religious sites while security is concentrated elsewhere. Indeed the same has been said about security throughout the rest of the UK, with local police forces being drawn upon to augment those of the metropolitan area for the duration of the Games. Were the event to be moved to a less vulnerable location considerable savings could be made. Moreover, Greenwich is unsuitable on many other grounds – equestrian, ecological, archaeological, residential, access for construction traffic, effect on local businesses. Other sites, notably Windsor Great Park or Hickstead, would be safer and cheaper.

#### Patrons:

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