

**TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
REGULATORY COMMITTEE
FOR 21 JUNE 2016**

REF NO: RC/12/16

ITEM FOR DECISION

SAFETY AT SPORTS GROUND ACT 1975

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION BY VIRTUE
OF PARAGRAPH 7 OF PART 1 OF
SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

APPLICANT: MS LINDSAY MURRAY

POSITION: SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR CULTURE, COMMUNITIES,
LEISURE & VOLUNTEERING, GATESHEAD COUNCIL

PURPOSE OF REPORT: APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF GENERAL SAFETY
CERTIFICATE

SPORTS GROUND: GATESHEAD INTERNATIONAL STADIUM NEILSON
ROAD GATESHEAD NE10 0EF

**NAME OF CURRENT
CERTIFICATE HOLDER:** MS ANN BORTHWICK

Purpose of Report

1. This report seeks approval to authorise the transfer of General Safety Certificate No. 25 for Gateshead International Stadium from the current Certificate Holder (Ann Borthwick) to the Council's current Service Director for Culture, Communities, Leisure & Volunteering (Lindsay Murray).

Background

2. Article 2(1) and Schedule 1 of the Safety of Sports Grounds (Designation) Order 2015 designate Gateshead International Stadium as being a sports ground that requires a Safety Certificate to be in force for the purposes of the Safety at Sports Grounds Act 1975.
3. The current General Safety Certificate for the Stadium is Certificate Number 25 which was issued on 21 June 2013 to Ann Borthwick, who at that time was Gateshead Council's Service Director for Libraries, Sport & Culture and as such had responsibility under the Council's Constitution for the control of the stadium and taking necessary precautions for the reasonable safety of spectators at the stadium.
4. That responsibility now rests with Lindsay Murray in her role as the Council's Service Director for Culture, Communities, Leisure & Volunteering. Consequently, on 15 June 2016 Ms Murray applied for the General Safety Certificate to be transferred to appoint her as the Certificate Holder.
5. Section 3 of the Act states that upon an application from a person to be appointed as the holder of a Safety Certificate, it is the duty of the Council to determine whether the applicant is a person likely to be in a position to prevent contravention of the terms and conditions of the Certificate. Such a person is referred to in the Act as a "qualified person".
6. Section 4 of the Act requires that the Council consults with the Chief Officers of Northumbria Police and the Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service in respect of the proposed transfer to Ms Murray.
7. Section 10B of the Act also requires the Council to inspect the stadium at least every twelve months to ensure that the Act and the Certificate are being complied with.
8. Verbal updates on the consultation and inspection shall be provided to the Committee at the hearing.

For determination

9. In the event that –
 - a. the Chief Officers of Northumbria Police and the Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service have confirmed that they have no objection to the transfer; and

b. the inspector confirms that there are no outstanding issues

then the Regulatory Committee is requested to determine –

- i. whether Ms Murray is a 'qualified person' for the purposes of holding the General Safety Certificate for Gateshead International Stadium; and
- ii. whether to approve the transfer of the Certificate to Ms Murray accordingly.

10. If however any of these matters remain outstanding at the time of the hearing, then the Committee is requested to authorise the Chair / Vice Chair to make this determination on behalf of the Committee at such time as the outstanding items are resolved.

DATE OF COMMITTEE: 21 JUNE 2016