

Regulator: Sports Grounds Safety Authority

Business Impact Target Reporting Period Covered: 13 Dec 2020 – 12 Dec 2021

Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available
<p>Measures certified as being below de minimis (measures with an EANDCB below +/- £5 million)</p>	<p>Before the start of the 2021/22 season, the Sports Grounds Safety Authority (SGSA) published a slightly revised document outlining how it will work with clubs and local authorities in the 2021/22 season in enforcing the Government's all-seater policy. This enforcement approach was not new. Rather, it built on the previous enforcement approach 2019/20, updating it for the new season and continuing to provide clarity and transparency on how the SGSA's statutory duties will be discharged in the context of emerging new technologies in the provision of spectator accommodation. The 2021/22 document also acknowledged the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Subsequently, in week commencing 6 December 2021, the SGSA published a further iteration of the enforcement approach 2021/22 document reflecting the forthcoming introduction of licensed standing areas at a handful of 'early adopter' SGSA licensed grounds from 1 January 2022.</p> <p>The SGSA considers the only additional costs to clubs arising directly from the revisions to the enforcement approach outlined above will be for key staff at each club (principally the CEO/Club Secretary and the Safety Officer) to familiarise themselves with the content. Based on the scale and scope of the document, and feedback received, the SGSA estimates that total familiarisation costs will be <£50,000.</p>



Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available
EU Regulations, Decisions and Directives and other international obligations, including the implementation of the EU Withdrawal Bill and EU Withdrawal Agreement	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion.
Measures certified as concerning EU Withdrawal Bill operability measures	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion.
Pro-competition	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion.
Systemic Financial Risk	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion.
Civil Emergencies	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion.
Fines and Penalties	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion.
Misuse of Drugs	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion.
Measures certified as relating to the safety of tenants, residents and occupants in response to the Grenfell tragedy	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion.



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Casework	<p>In May 2021, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport decided to grant Peterborough United FC a 12-month extension to the all-seater deadline, following the club's promotion to the Championship for the 2021/22 season and given the club had previously been in the Championship for more than three seasons. The Secretary of State's decision was reflected in the conditions in the licence that SGSA issued to Peterborough as part of the SGSA licensing round in July 2021 for the 2021/22 season.</p> <p>The SGSA issued a total of 92 annual licences in July 2021 for the licensing period 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022, none of which contained specific licence changes. One of those licences was for Hartlepool United FC following that club's return to the English Football League following promotion from the National League. Additionally, in September 2021, the SGSA issued an annual licence to Sutton United FC as that club was newly promoted to the English Football League for the first time in the club's history.</p> <p>In week commencing 6 December 2021, following a direction from the Secretary of State under Section 11 of the Football Spectators Act 1989, the SGSA withdrew four licences previously issued in July with all-seater conditions, and replaced them with four new licences with amended licence conditions. Those new conditions allow those previously all-seater grounds to be 'Early Adopter' grounds and operate licensed standing areas for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 July 2022.</p>
Education, communications and promotion	Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion.
Activity related to policy development	<p>In May to June 2021, the SGSA consulted on Supplementary Guidance 03: Event Safety Management (SG03). This is a supplementary document to the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (Green Guide), which was published in 2018, and provides a comprehensive overview of the planning and delivery of safe events.</p> <p>In July to September 2021, the SGSA consulted on the following proposals: (i) 'Early Adopter' criteria for grounds currently subject to the all-seater policy to be able to offer licensed standing areas; (ii) associated new licence conditions; and (iii) draft Supplementary Guidance 01: Safe Standing in Seated Areas (SG01). SG01 outlined the positive benefits of installing either independent barriers (or rails) or seats incorporating barriers in order to mitigate</p>



	<p>the risks of progressive crowd collapse. SG01 also summarised the main design and safety management issues associated with such installations.</p> <p>Both SG01 and SG03 were subsequently published in September 2021 and form part of the suite of Sports Grounds and Stadia Safety guides produced by the SGSA. The Green Guide makes clear that its contents are not definitive or applicable to all circumstances and advocates that independent professional advice should be obtained before taking any action or refraining from any action based on the information provided.</p> <p>In late September 2021, informed by responses received from consultation, the SGSA published the 'Early Adopter' criteria and sought expressions of interest from SGSA licensed grounds to be 'Early Adopters'. Six applications were received, of which one was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant. The SGSA carefully considered the other five against the 'Early Adopter' criteria and then provided written recommendations in support of all five applications to the Secretary of State which they then endorsed. In November 2021, the five applicants were informed by the SGSA that their applications had been successful and the SGSA started making arrangements to amend their SGSA licences accordingly so they could each operate licensed standing areas from January 2022 (see also Casework above).</p>
Changes to management of regulator	<p>The then SGSA Chair, Alan Coppin stood down in March 2021. Following an open competition recruitment process, Derek Wilson was appointed by the Secretary of State as the new SGSA Chair and took up post in April 2021. Two Board members whose terms of office were due to end on 11 December 2021 have been reappointed for a further three years.</p> <p>In addition, the terms of office for three Board members that were due to expire in February 2022 have each been extended for a further year.</p>

* For full, legal definitions of these exclusion categories, please see <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-06-20/HCWS776/>