EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS (DESIGNATION) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2025

2025 No. 828

1. Introduction

1.1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and is laid before Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

2. Declaration

2.1 Stephanie Peacock, the Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, confirms that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

2.2 Adam Conant, Deputy Director for Sport at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, confirms that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

3. Contact

3.1 Sarah Hannaford at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (telephone: 07801 405995 or email: sarah.hannaford@dcms.gov.uk) can be contacted with any queries regarding the instrument.

Part One: Explanation, and context, of the Instrument

4. Overview of the Instrument

What does the legislation do?

4.1 This Order amends the Safety of Sports Grounds (Designation) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/661, "the 2015 Order") so as to designate (1) Hayes Lane Stadium, as occupied by Bromley Football Club, (2) The Hive London, as occupied by Barnet Football Club, and (3) Hill Dickinson Stadium, as occupied by Everton Football Club. Each of these is a sports ground located in England and Wales, at which association football matches are played, which is occupied by a club that is a member of the Football League Limited or the Football Association Premier League Limited, and which in the opinion of the Secretary of State has accommodation for more than 5,000 spectators. This follows, respectively, either the construction of the stadium or the club's promotion to the English Football League.

4.2 This Order also de-designates (1) London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Stadium, as occupied by Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club, (2) The New Lawn, as occupied by Forest Green Rovers Football Club, (3) Globe Arena, as occupied by Morecambe Football Club, (4) Bootham Crescent, as occupied by York City Football Club, and (5) Boleyn Ground, as formerly occupied by West Ham United Football Club, due to the team's relegation from the English Football League and/or the ground's demolition.

4.3 This Order additionally changes the designations for the following sports grounds from Schedule 2 to Schedule 1 to reflect a change in their classification: (1) Brunton Park, as occupied by Carlisle United Football Club, and (2) Roots Hall Football

Ground, as occupied by Southend United Football Club. It also changes the designations for (1) The Stadium at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (now London Stadium), as occupied by the London Legacy Development Corporation (now occupied London Stadium 185), (2) Meadow Lane Stadium, as occupied by Notts County Football Club, and (3) Glyndwr University Racecourse Stadium (now the Racehorse Ground), as occupied by Wrexham Association Football Club, from Schedule 1 to Schedule 2 based on comparable but inverse grounds for reclassification.

4.4 Lastly, due to requests from responsible bodies, this Order amends (1) the name entry for Wrexham Association Football Club's stadium from Glyndwr University Racecourse Stadium to the Racecourse Ground, (2) the name entry for The Stadium at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to London Stadium, and (3) the occupiers of this stadium from London Legacy Development Corporation to London Stadium 185.

Where does the legislation extend to, and apply?

4.5 The extent of this instrument (that is, the jurisdiction(s) which the instrument forms part of the law of) is England and Wales.

4.6 The territorial application of this instrument (that is, where the instrument produces a practical effect) is England and Wales.

5. Policy context

What is being done and why?

5.1 The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 ("the 1975 Act") helps to ensure high standards of spectator safety at sports grounds by requiring any sports ground designated under that Act to obtain a safety certificate from the local authority for the area in which that sports ground is situated. Primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with the required standards lies with the local authority.

5.2 Safety certificates must contain such terms and conditions as the local authority considers necessary or expedient to secure reasonable safety at the designated sports ground. The 1975 Act provides for a number of criminal offences; for example, where spectators are admitted to a designated sports ground when no valid safety certificate is in place, or where any term or condition of a safety certificate is contravened.

5.3 Section 1(1) of the 1975 Act provides that the Secretary of State may designate by Order any sports ground in England and Wales as requiring a safety certificate from the relevant local authority if, in the Secretary of State's opinion, that sports ground has accommodation for more than 10,000 spectators. Section 1(1A) provides that the Secretary of State may substitute such other number as they consider appropriate for the 10,000 threshold, either generally or for different classes of sports ground. The Safety of Sports Grounds (Accommodation of Spectators) Order 1996 (S.I. 1996/499) substituted the number 5,000 for the number of spectators specified in section 1(1) of that Act in respect of sports grounds in England and Wales at which association football matches are played and which are occupied by a football club which is a member of the Football League Limited or the Football Association Premier League Limited.

5.4 Designations that had been made under the 1975 Act in respect of sports grounds in England and Wales, which were still considered to meet the applicable conditions, were consolidated in the 2015 Order.

5.5 This Order amends the 2015 Order so as to designate the three (3) above listed grounds as sports grounds which requires a safety certificate under the 1975 Act. This Order also amends the 2015 Order so as to de-designate the five (5) above listed grounds as sports grounds which no longer require a safety certificate under the 1975 Act.

5.6 In addition, this Order changes the orders of the five (5) grounds above due to classification changes. This Order lastly amends the name entries for two (2) grounds and one (1) occupier following requests from the responsible bodies identified during the consultation led for this Order.

5.7 It is important to note that at this time, additional name entries could be updated due to sponsorship changes and other factors. However, since the practical implications of these designations remain unchanged, no further edits are required, and the identifying venue addresses remain consistent, we will address these when there are proportionate material and/or safety reasons to do so.

What was the previous policy, how is this different?

5.8 The underlying policy has remained substantially unchanged since the introduction of the primary legislation. This Order updates the cohort of qualifying stadia to reflect the changed circumstances as listed above.

6. Legislative and legal context

How has the law changed?

6.1 This Order amends the 2015 Order so as to designate Hayes Lane Stadium, as occupied by Bromley Football Club, The Hive London, as occupied by Barnet Football Club, and Hill Dickinson Stadium, as occupied by Everton Football Club, as it is the Secretary of State's opinion that these grounds have accommodation for over 5,000 spectators, and are occupied by a club that is a member of the Football League Limited or the Football Association Premier League Limited, as such satisfying the criteria for designation under the 1975 Act.

6.2 This Order equally amends the 2015 Order so as to de-designate London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Stadium, as occupied by Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club, The New Lawn Stadium, as occupied by Forest Green Rovers Football Club, the Globe Arena, as occupied by Morecambe Football Club, Bootham Crescent, as occupied by York City Football Club, and Boleyn Ground as formerly occupied by West Ham United Football Club, as the grounds no longer meet the criteria for designation.

6.3 The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 categorizes designated sports grounds based on location, sport, club affiliation, and spectator capacity. Schedule 1 of this Act applies to sports grounds in England and Wales that, in the Secretary of State's opinion, can accommodate over 10,000 spectators. Schedule 2 applies to stadiums that in the Secretary of State's opinion have spectator capacity exceeding 5,000 and are specifically used for association football by clubs in the Premier League and English Football League. In line with this, this Order reclassifies a number of grounds due to changes related to the above. Brunton Park Stadium as occupied by Carlisle United Football Club, and Roots Hall Football Ground as occupied by Southend United Football Club are being moved from Schedule 2 to Schedule 1. Conversely, The Stadium at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park formerly as occupied by London Legacy Development Corporation (now the London Stadium as occupied by London Stadium 185), Meadow Lane Stadium as occupied by Notts County Football Club, and

Glyndwr University Racecourse Stadium (now the Racehorse Ground) as occupied by Wrexham Association Football Club, are being moved from Schedule 1 to Schedule 2 for similar reasons.

6.4 This Statutory Instrument will lastly amend the name entry for Wrexham Association Football Club's stadium from Glyndwr University Racecourse Stadium to the Racehorse Ground, and the name entry for London Legacy Development Corporation from The Stadium at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to the London Stadium, and the occupiers from the London Legacy Development Corporation to London Stadium 185.

Why was this approach taken to change the law?

6.5 As Parliament provided the Secretary of State with powers to designate sports grounds under the 1975 Act by secondary legislation, it is appropriate to keep the designations up to date using secondary legislation.

7. Consultation

Summary of consultation outcome and methodology

7.1 The relevant local authorities have been consulted, alongside the relevant ground owners, police, fire and ambulance services in respect of the above amendments to the designations and de-designations. The naming changes that were raised and requested during this consultation have been incorporated into this Order.

8. Applicable guidance

8.1 The Sports Grounds Safety Authority ("SGSA") has published technical guidance on a range of matters associated with sports grounds safety, including its Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (also known as "the Green Guide"). This is published by the SGSA (ISBN 978-1-9164583-0-7, 6th Edition) and is available for purchase at: https://sgsa.org.uk/green-guide/.

Part Two: Impact and the Better Regulation Framework

9. Impact Assessment

9.1 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument because it has no significant impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

Impact on businesses, charities and voluntary bodies

9.2 The impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies in relation to the amendments to the designations of the listed stadiums is limited to whichever body is responsible for ensuring that the ground owners obtain safety certificates from the relevant local authority and comply with its terms and conditions.

9.3 The legislation does not impact small or micro businesses.

9.4 The impact on the public sector is limited to the relevant councils, being the local authorities for the areas in which the stadiums, respectively, are situated, as well as (to a lesser degree) the SGSA.

10. Monitoring and review

What is the approach to monitoring and reviewing this legislation?

10.1 A statutory review clause is included in the 2015 Order as a result of an amendment made by the Safety of Sports Grounds (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/1556). A report was published on 29 September 2020 and subsequent reports must be published no more than every five years thereafter, with the next comprehensive review scheduled for September 2025.

10.2 In addition to this, if the circumstances in which a sports ground operates change - for example, where the local authority notifies the Secretary of State that a sports ground no longer meets the criteria for designation - the designation for that sports ground in the 2015 Order may be amended or revoked.

Part Three: Statements and matters of particular interest to Parliament

11. Matters of special interest to Parliament

11.1 None.

12. European Convention on Human Rights

12.1 The Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has made the following statement regarding Human Rights:

"In my view the provisions of the Safety of Sports Grounds (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2025 are compatible with the Convention rights."

13. The Relevant European Union Acts

13.1 This instrument is not made under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, the European Union (Future Relationship) Act 2020 or the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 ("relevant European Union Acts").