

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR - Director of Housing, Operations and Development

**TO: REGULATORY PANEL – LICENSING (SPECIAL)
OF 12th June 2024**

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL INSPECTION AND SAFETY CERTIFICATES FOR THE
REGULATED STANDS AT AYR RACECOURSE**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To advise the Panel of the outcome of the annual technical inspections at Ayr Racecourse, and to seek approval for the issue of revised Safety Certificates for the two stands.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Panel:

2.1.1 agrees that the current Safety Certificates remain in force until 30th June 2024, provided that no adverse reports are received at the meeting; and

2.1.2 agrees that the revised Safety Certificates will come into force on 1st July 2024, for the period of one year.

3. Background

- 3.1 Ayr Racecourse is covered by the provisions of the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sports Act 1987. Part III of the Act applies to sports grounds which provide covered accommodation in stands for spectators but are not designated sports grounds in terms of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975. Safety Certificates require to be issued for grandstands (“regulated stands”), which provide covered accommodation for 500 or more spectators.

- 3.2 Main guidance is given in the “Guide to Safety of Sports Grounds”, the (“Green Guide”). Although the guide has no statutory force, its recommendations can be made statutory by their inclusion in Safety Certificates.

- 3.3 Ayr Racecourse currently has two grandstands which are classed as regulated stands, the Princess Royal (also known as the Club Stand) and the Eglinton Stand.
- 3.4 It should be noted that the Safety Certificates cover only the grandstands, their associated entrances and exits and the concourses in front of the stands. The Racecourse is not classified as a designated Sports Ground under the 1975 Act. The certificates do not cover the Eglinton Rooms, Rothesay Stand, Paddock area etc.
- 3.5 The current Certificate remains in force until 30th June 2024, unless withdrawn by the Council.
- 3.6 The Safety Certificates states that all assessments, surveys and reports required, should be completed by 28th February each year, with any remedial works carried out to the satisfaction of the Council by 31st May. It should be noted that inspections are carried out prior to the Scottish National meeting, normally held in mid-April and the Gold Cup held in September each year. Both of which attracts the largest attendances. There are also multi-Agency meetings held prior to both these events and debriefs to learn any lessons learned.

4. Proposals

Technical Reports

4.1 Building Standards Services, South Ayrshire Council

- 4.1.1 A site visit was made to the Racecourse on 3rd April 2024. It can be reported that all the required assessments, surveys, certification and reports are now in place, with the exception of, the Structural Certificate, which is signed off after the 2024 Maintenance Programme has been completed.

The 2024 Maintenance Programme contains a number of minor items to be repaired, and these will be completed by the 30th June 2024. Some of the ongoing issues highlighted within the structural report are outlined below.

- 4.1.2 The structural report submitted as part of the required assessments, highlighted concerns regarding the condition of the reinforced concrete structural frame to the Eglinton Grandstand. A series of record photographs were taken as part of the structural survey.

No immediate action is required in relation to safety, however there are works required to prolong lifespan of the structure.

It is proposed that a further detailed inspection is scheduled for October 2024. Comparison will be made with the record photographs taken previously, to consider deterioration of the structural frame. This will assist with determining any proposed remedial works required.

It should be noted that there is no public access currently to the upper tier of the Eglinton grandstand, and as such the spectator numbers for this stand have been reduced. This area of the stand is not required generally during the year due to the spectator numbers. There is however a proposal by the Racecourse to reintroduce spectators to the upper tier for the Scottish National April 2025, depending on numbers of ticket sales.

A full safety assessment of this area will be required to be carried out, including barrier load testing, prior to allowing spectators to access the upper tier of the grandstand. There will also have to be an amended safety certificate issued, to include this area again within the approved spectators for the Eglinton Stand.

We are currently working with the racecourse management team and the safety officers to determine how the work to this area will be programmed.

- 4.1.3 The Scottish Grand National meeting was held this year on 20th April 2024 and attracted an attendance of 17,171, and the Ayr Gold Cup meeting was held on the 23rd September 2023 with an attendance of 8,049. No adverse reports specifically in relation to the grandstands were received about either meeting.
- 4.1.4 It should be noted that at the debrief for the Scottish Grand National meeting in held in April 2024, there was no adverse feedback from any of the stakeholders in attendance.

The Racecourse safety team were commended for the traffic management system, which was put in place, with the majority of attendees to the event by bus, entering and exiting from the centre of the course.

There was also the ongoing issue of a limited rail service into Ayr due to the safety works at the fire damaged Station Hotel Building. Several multi-agency meetings (including Network Rail and Scotrail) were held on the lead up to the event. This resulted in an additional bus replacement service being introduced between Prestwick Town train station and Alison Street in Ayr.

At the debrief it was recorded that this worked well, and no adverse comments were received.

4.2 Environmental Health Services, South Ayrshire Council

No adverse reports received.

4.3 Scottish Fire & Rescue

No adverse comments

4.4 Police Scotland

No adverse comments.

4.5 Scottish Ambulance Service

No adverse comments.

4.6 St Andrew's Ambulance Corps

No adverse comments.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 The cost of staff time spent on inspections and on the preparation of revised Safety Certificates was met from existing Planning and Building Standards revenue budget.

7. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

8. Risk Implications of adopting the recommendations.

8.1 Risk Implications of adopting the recommendations.

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

8.2 Risk Implications of rejecting the recommendations.

8.2.1 Rejecting the recommendations may impact on the reputation of the Council.

9. Equalities

9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equalities Impact Assessment Scoping Process, and there are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as Appendix 1.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

10.1 Considering Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. Options Appraisal

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 This work contributes to Priority One Spaces and Places, Priority Two Work and Economy Priority Three Pride in South Ayrshire.

13. Results of Consultation

13.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this paper.

13.2 Consultation has taken place with SAC Environmental Health Services; Scottish Fire and Rescue; Police Scotland; Scottish Ambulance Service; and the St Andrews Ambulance Corps.

Background Papers

Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975.
Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987.
Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (6th edition) (“the Green Guide”).
Safety Certificates for the Princess Royal and Eglinton Stands, Ayr Racecourse.

Author and Person to Contact

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Date. 5th June 2024

APPENDIX 1

South Ayrshire Council Equalities Scoping Template
1. Policy details

The 2024 Annual Inspection and the issuing of an extension of the Safety Certificates for the Regulated Stands at Ayr Racecourse	Lead Officer Hugh Talbot
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2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts

Community, Groups of People or Themes	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
The whole community of South Ayrshire	No	Yes
People from different racial groups, ethnic or national origin.	No	No
Women and/or men (boys and girls)	No	Yes
People with disabilities	No	Yes
People from particular age groups for example Older people, children and young people	No	No
Lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual people	No	No
People who are proposing to undergo, are undergoing or have undergone a process to change sex	No	No
Pregnant women and new mothers	No	No
People who are married or in a civil partnership	No	No
People who share a particular religion or belief	No	No
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights, Rurality and Deprivation.	No	No

3. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:

General Duty and other Equality Themes	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (high, medium or low)
Eliminate discrimination and harassment faced by particular communities or groups	Positive – low Reduced discrimination of disabled
Promote equality of opportunity between particular communities or groups	Positive – low
Foster good relations between particular communities or groups	Positive – low
Promote positive attitudes towards different communities or groups	Positive – low Promotes inclusion in community life
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Positive – low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Positive – low Promotes inclusion in community life
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Positive – low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Positive – low

4. Summary Assessment

Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (A full EIA must be carried out on all high and medium impact policies)		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rationale for decision: The Annual Inspection and the introduction of revised safety certificates for the two regulated grandstands at Ayr Racecourse will improve safety for spectators using the facilities, but has no significant impact on the public in general.			
Signed : Hugh Talbot		Co-ordinator : Planning & Building Standards	
Date: 5/6/2024		Copy to equalities@south-ayrshire.gov.uk	