



### **National Outdoor Events Association**

Dear Mr. Taylor

I am writing to you to follow up recent discussions in regards to sustainability and events management.

As Vice President for the National Outdoor Events Association (NOEA), I have had the opportunity over the last three years to be a member of the British Standard Committee which consults for BS8901 (Events management and sustainability)

My first impression is that Brighton and Hove City Council Events Department is working very well in terms of BS8901, and embraces the philosophy surrounding environmental, social and economic impact.

It is important to remember that BS8901 is being rewritten at the moment, in order to be able to move this process forward to an international ISO status. As such, the standard itself and guidance documents are currently in a state of flux. Any company or organisation wishing to take on the standard now would be working with it in its embryonic stages. In short, there is still some way to go for the standard and those wishing to follow it. Guidance is currently being written by myself and others, which will assist this process.

The status of any organisation wishing to follow BS8901 would currently be 'working towards the standard'. It is possible to be audited to accreditation of BS8901, but my advice with current changes is not to do this yet.

My recommendation to you at this time is to review timelines with the policy to be working towards by 2010, and to audit by 2011

In order to show working towards status, there is a need to engage all suppliers and event organisers providing services to the Events Department. This process must also include stakeholders, such a multi agency, top level management, and other departments and Brighton & Hove.

It will then be necessary to work from guidelines to provide a maturity matrix and sustainability policy, from which you can start working towards BS8901. As I am sure you will envisage, this will all take some time.

The emphasis of BS8901 is continual improvement, and therefore is a process which spans over years for any organisation.

In 2009, my advice to you would be to begin to engage stakeholders and also to seek trained in the area. There is a very valuable course available on 'getting started' with online tools, and I have sent these details separately to you. London 2012 has also provided guidelines for sustainable events, which are worth reviewing.

<http://www.london2012.com/news/archive/2009-02/london-2012-aims-to-inspire-with-guidelines-for-sustainable-events.php>

BS8901 requires understanding from within any organisation, and can become technically tricky!

You have my commitment for working towards and implementation of policies for Brighton and Hove City Council

Yours sincerely

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Managing Director of Select Security & Stewarding Ltd

