

News release: FINAL

**EMBARGO: 10.00HRS MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

## **GAMES FOR SCOTLAND PROGRAMME LAUNCHED**

EventScotland and the Scottish Government today launched the £320k Games for Scotland programme, designed to engage communities throughout Scotland in the lead up to the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, and raise awareness of the Handover Ceremony taking place during the Closing Ceremony of this year's Delhi Commonwealth Games.

The Handover Ceremony, which will feature a 346 strong cast, comprising artists and dancers from across Scotland, marks the beginning of a four-year journey that will culminate in Glasgow's hosting of the Commonwealth Games in 2014 - the biggest sporting event ever to take place on Scottish soil.

The Games for Scotland programme features a range of music, dance and sporting events, from Bollywood dancing in the Borders, to a mini Commonwealth Games on Shetland. The event programme will provide people from all over Scotland with the opportunity to unite and take pride in Scotland's role as host of the 20<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Games.

All 32 of Scotland's local authorities will be involved with many events coinciding with the Delhi Handover Ceremony taking place on October 14.

Shona Robison, Minister for Public Health and Sport, said:

"I'm delighted to see all 32 local authorities taking part and joining in the celebrations around the handover of the Commonwealth Games to Scotland.

"The range of these events will help make the Handover a memorable occasion across Scotland and build real excitement and involvement in our communities as we take a significant step to hosting the Games in 2014.

"We want to create a lasting legacy from the games and we want to get the country involved. The events will be a chance for Scots all over the country to join in, be inspired and get active."

Paul Bush OBE, Chief Operating Officer at EventScotland, said: "Games for Scotland is a fantastic programme of events which capitalises on the legacy of Homecoming 2009 and builds momentum as we look towards 2014. We are delighted to be delivering the programme on behalf of the Scottish Government and are looking forward to working with local authorities to ensure that the entire Scottish population has an opportunity to be involved in the Delhi Handover celebrations".

Glasgow 2014 Chief Executive John Scott said:

"The Handover Ceremony will be uniquely Scottish and blend together the traditional aspects of Scottish culture with the passion, style and fun of modern Scotland and it is these qualities that I hope will be replicated across the nation and throughout the Games for Scotland events as we celebrate Glasgow becoming the next Host City on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

"I hope that many of the friends, family, neighbours and colleagues of the 346 members of the Handover cast – who are from every corner of Scotland - come together to celebrate and watch their cast members perform in Delhi and make their region, and Scotland, proud."

The Games for Scotland programme is being delivered by EventScotland as part the Scottish Governments Commonwealth Games Legacy Plan - A Games Legacy for Scotland. It will be one of a number of initiatives in the lead up to Glasgow 2014 which bring together people of all ages and backgrounds developing healthier communities and a healthy nation ensuring the creation of a lasting legacy for the whole of Scotland.

**'Get involved and be part of our Games'. For further information on Games for Scotland:**

**[www.eventscotland.org/gamesforscotland](http://www.eventscotland.org/gamesforscotland) for further information on Glasgow 2014**

**[www.glasgow2014.com](http://www.glasgow2014.com)**

**ENDS**

**For further information on the Games for Scotland programme please contact:**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

- Games for Scotland is a £320k fund being delivered by EventScotland as part of the Games Legacy plan for Scotland, for further information go to [www.eventscotland.org/gamesforscotland](http://www.eventscotland.org/gamesforscotland)
- The Handover Ceremony marks the Flag Handover from Delhi to Glasgow, and includes an 8 minute creative programme to showcase Glasgow and Scotland to the rest of the world. The performance, which will involve a mass choreographed dance routine, will take place in the spectacular Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in front of a stadium audience of 60,000 during the Closing Ceremony of the 2010 Commonwealth Games. The performance will be beamed live across the Commonwealth to an estimated audience of 1 billion people.
- EventScotland is working to make Scotland one of the world's leading event destinations. By developing an exciting portfolio of sporting and cultural events EventScotland is helping to raise Scotland's international profile and boost the economy by attracting more visitors. For further information about EventScotland, its funding programmes and latest event news visit [www.eventscotland.org](http://www.eventscotland.org)
- The legacy plan was officially launched on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 and sets out how the Scottish Government aims to deliver a lasting legacy from Glasgow 2014 and other major events, such as the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Ryder Cup in 2014. The Games Legacy plan can be downloaded from: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/ArtsCultureSport/Sport/MajorEvents/Glasgow-2014/Commonwealth-games](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/ArtsCultureSport/Sport/MajorEvents/Glasgow-2014/Commonwealth-games)
- Active Nation is a Scottish Government initiative which aims to energise and motivate Scots to increase their physical activity in the run up to the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and beyond. For further information on Active Nation log on to [www.ouractivenation.co.uk](http://www.ouractivenation.co.uk)

## **GAMES FOR SCOTLAND EVENTS**

**\*A number of events are still in development and therefore do not appear on the list below. EventScotland is working with the local authorities to establish celebrations all across the country. For further information on these events go to [www.eventscotland.org/gamesforscotland](http://www.eventscotland.org/gamesforscotland)**

Aberdeenshire Sporting Legacy Celebration

Are Ya Dancin

Argyll & Bute 14.10

Bolly Borders

Commonwealth Games Celebration Concert

Commonwealth Magic

Dancing Across the Nations

Edinburgh Commonwealth Games Handover Event (2010)

Festival of Dance

Game On - Get Involved!

Games for Scotland

Get Involved in The Games (North & South Lanarkshire)

Gold Medal Standard

Indian Dance & Scottish Dance Residencies

North Ayrshire Community Games

October Holiday Activity Programme

Perth and Kinross Get Involved Youth Games Camps

Real to Reel

Shetland Games Celebration

Stirling's Commonwealth Games Handover Celebrations

The Delhi Ceilidh

The Lothian Games

The Moray Games

West Lothian Handover Ceremony