

PE1848/D

Scottish Snooker submission of 10 January 2021

The Scottish Government's response states:

*'Our approach and principles remain as set out in our Framework for Decision Making, **based on clinical evidence, expert advice, and a balanced assessment of the risks.** While we currently have **no plans to allow pool and snooker halls to reopen outside of tiers 0 and 1**, we keep the **content of the Strategic Framework under regular review.**'*

As outlined in our previous submission, PE1848/C:

- The **clinical evidence** that snooker is so much of a risk has never been produced.
- The **expert advice** we believe was flawed based on inaccurate document: Scotland's Strategic Framework: Business Closures Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA).
- We do not believe it has been a **balanced assessment of the risks.**
- We would like you to **allow snooker halls to reopen** at the same time as other non-contact sports.
- Since the strategic framework is **under regular review** as stated, we would like this to happen based on the submission and accurate information presented.

Snooker halls were assessed within the Scotland's Strategic Framework, which was then presented to government officials. Below, we refute these assessments, one by one.

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| • Poor ventilation | False – excellent ventilation within venues, also enhanced procedures in place. Venues have similar ventilation systems to many retail / supermarkets or other indoor sporting venues have. It is part of the premises license laws that venues should have sufficient mechanical ventilation. |
| • Physical distancing difficult to maintain | False – difficult not to distance on account of the table 12ft x 6ft between 2 players. We have previously calculated physical distancing required for snooker and submitted it to MSP's for consideration, each game between 2 players has 352 sq ft. |
| • Pinch points at toilets | Same issue as any other establishment in business / retail, education or sport. Control measures within the risk assessments of each venue to mitigate the risks |
| • Prolonged periods indoors | Same issue as any other establishment in business / retail, education or sport. How is |

this different to any café – or any other sport? As long as the Risk Assessment is adhered to, enhanced ventilation, physical distancing and hygiene procedures in place

- Keeping surfaces clean **Again, the same as any other venues open** – within the Risk Assessment, control measures in place, enhanced cleaning / hygiene procedures
- Regulating movement throughout the setting **Again, within venue Risk Assessment** control measures, limiting movements, limiting numbers in venues as applicable, one-way systems if required, booking slots etc, same as any other indoor sporting venue
- Common use of equipment and surfaces **Again, dealt with within reopening guidelines** and safety protocols. All venues have a Risk Assessment in place; Covid-19 officer; control measures in place to mitigate the risks to ensure public health is paramount & enhanced hygiene procedures. No different to other venues, sport or business and risk assessments required for them to be safely open.

We urge the committee to ask the government to reconsider.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our points above.