

To: NPPOs of countries involved in the London Olympics 2012

Export of plant material including Olympic & Paralympics bouquets

28th June 2012

Dear Colleagues,

Further to my letter to you of 2nd March regarding the UK's Plant Health import requirements this letter is to make you aware of the situation in respect of the issuing of Phytosanitary certificates for any plant material, including Olympic bouquets issued to medal winners and others leaving the UK.

For the Games period 27th July – 9th September our export procedures remain as normal with exporters needing to contact a Fera Plant Health and Seeds Inspector in advance of the export of any plant material through our central office (planthealth.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk). For the Games period we are unable to provide any additional service because of security and other logistical issues. Should medal winners who receive one of the 4,400 Victory bouquets awarded wish to take them out of the country to their homes they will need to apply in the normal way for any certificate which you require to facilitate import. Fera's inspectors have already carried out growing season inspections of the plants in the bouquets, but there has been no laboratory examination.

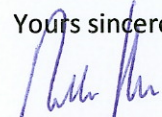
Each bouquet will contain the following plant material: Wheat, roses, English lavender (dried), rosemary and mint as arranged and tied as shown below.



We are aware that certificates based on general inspection may not meet the import requirements of many countries, in particular for the wheat in the bouquets. To avoid disappointment and if this applies in your country it would be desirable if you could get a message to your Olympic teams that they are unlikely to be able to bring their bouquets home. We will be asking LOCOG, the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, to make this message clear to participants.

Once more if you have any questions please get in touch with me, or our principal inspector with responsibility for the Games arrangements, Dr. Kelvin Hughes – kelvin.hughes@fera.gsi.gov.uk - + 44 1904 462340.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Ward
UK Head of Plant Health