

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**  
**THE SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS (DESIGNATION) ORDER 2007**  
**2007 No. 1587**

**1. Introduction**

1.1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

**2. Description**

2.1. This order designates the grounds occupied by Milton Keynes Dons Football Club, Shrewsbury Town Football Club and Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club as sports grounds requiring safety certificates under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975.

**3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments**

3.1. None.

**4. Legislative Background**

4.1. The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 provides for local authorities to issue safety certificates for designated sports grounds. Safety certificates contain such terms and conditions as the local authority considers necessary or expedient to secure reasonable safety at the sports ground. The Act creates offences in relation to the admission of spectators to a designated sports ground, in particular, where no safety certificate is in place or where the conditions of the safety certificate have been contravened.

4.2. Section 1(1) of the 1975 Act provides that the Secretary of State may by order designate as a sports ground requiring a safety certificate any sports ground which in her opinion has accommodation for more than 10,000 spectators.

4.3. The Safety of Sports Grounds (Accommodation of Spectators) Order 1996 reduced the number of spectators to 5,000 in respect of sports grounds in England and Wales at which association football matches are played and which are occupied by a club which is a member of the FA Premier League or the Football League.

4.4. This order designates three football grounds, for the purposes of the 1975 Act, which each have accommodation for more than 5 000 spectators. Each of these football grounds are occupied by clubs which are members of the Football League or Premier League. Similar designation orders have been issued most years since 1976 in respect of other sports grounds.

## **5. Extent**

5.1 The Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 (under which the order is made) extends to England, Wales and Scotland.

## **6. The European Convention on Human Rights**

6.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

## **7. Policy background**

7.1. The policy background to the 1975 Act is to improve spectator safety at sports grounds. The primary responsibility for ensuring safety lies with local authorities.

7.2. The reasons for designating these grounds are StadiumMK (the home ground of Milton Keynes Dons Football Club) is that it is a newly built stadium that the club will be using as their home ground from the beginning of the 2007/08 football season. Milton Keynes Don's new ground will have a capacity of 21,000 spectators. The New Stadium Oteley Road (the home of Shrewsbury Town Football Club) is a newly built stadium that the club will be using as their home ground from the beginning of the 2007/08 football season and will have a capacity of 7,000 spectators. Victoria Road Stadium (the home of Dagenham and Redbridge Football Club) will be hosting football league matches for the first time in its history from the beginning of the 2007/08 football season. Dagenham and Redbridge's stadium has a capacity of 6,071 spectators. To address any potential safety concerns at these grounds, the Secretary of State believes and that they should be designated so that the relevant local authorities can carry out certification of the grounds for safety purposes. In each case, the club and the relevant local authority, police and fire services have been consulted and no objections have been raised to designation.

## **8. Impact**

8.1. A full Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this order.

8.2. The order imposes additional requirements on the local authorities in whose areas these sports grounds are located, which will be responsible for issuing safety certificates.

## **9. Contact**

9.1. Rose Lubega at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Tel: 020 7211 6073 or email: [Rose.Lubega@culture.gov.uk](mailto:Rose.Lubega@culture.gov.uk) can answer any queries regarding the instrument.