

Press release

The National Archives set to receive London 2012 digital Olympic records

As the sun sets on a sporting summer like no other, a lasting testimony to the success of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will live on among the digital records at The National Archives in Kew.

The National Archives has reached a landmark agreement with the British Olympic Association (BOA), the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to ensure access to the records of London 2012. With the support of the BOA, the records will be housed at The National Archives, ensuring their long-term preservation and future public accessibility.

Seb Coe, LOCOG Chair, said: *"We are delighted that LOCOG's meticulous record keeping and learnings from previous Games will be retained in safe hands with The National Archives. The success of staging the London Games has demonstrated the capability of the UK to stage major sporting events, and this agreement will enable the London 2012 blueprint to be retained and shared with future organisers of other major sports events within the UK. It should also serve as a lasting digital legacy to inspire future generations of the events of London 2012."*

The digital records, which will begin transferring to The National Archives' digital repository next year, may comprise up to five terabytes (5TB) of data - comparable to around 50 kilometres of paper records.

Minister for Sport and the Olympics, Hugh Robertson said: *"The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games have seen some extraordinary performances by the athletes, a superb effort from all the volunteers and an incredible atmosphere created by the supporters in the arenas. We may be closing the chapter on a phenomenal summer of sport, but we hope that when generations view the digital archives at Kew in the future they will have a frame of reference for understanding the way London delivered a great Games."*

The 'Archives of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games' will contain a large collection of historically valuable material from the bid process to the planning and delivery of the Games, through to the dissolution of LOCOG in 2013.

Andy Hunt, Chief Executive of the BOA said: *"The ongoing availability of these resources to the National Governing Bodies of sport will be invaluable. We are delighted that we have been entrusted with the guardianship of this information by LOCOG and the IOC and will ensure that it is used for the benefit of sport and the British Olympic Movement in the future."*

In addition, The National Archives is archiving social media and websites connected to the Games including www.london2012.com and www.getaheadofthegames.com.

Archived websites from the London Games will be available through the [UK Government Web Archive](#), while other records will remain closed for up to 15 years. The British Film Institute National Archive will hold audio and video material from the collection on behalf of The National Archives.

Oliver Morley, Chief Executive and Keeper of The National Archives, said: *“The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be seen as unparalleled in their scale, scope, and historical legacy. We are proud to preserve the record from the third London games, as we did for 1908 and 1948. We’re thrilled that, for the first time, we will be able to show the whole picture of how the games were delivered - from organising committee to government - with an innovative digital Olympic archive for future historians, researchers and host cities to draw inspiration from. “*

Earlier this year, The National Archives launched [The Olympic Record](#) site to host a selection of digitised records relating to previous Olympic and Paralympic Games dating back to the first modern Games in Athens in 1896 up to Beijing in 2008.

‘The Olympic Record’ site also provides a gateway to hundreds of sporting and cultural activities taking place across the country. It offers advice and guidance to other public and private sector organisations in capturing the Olympic legacy outside of official public records.

For more information, images or to arrange an interview, contact The National Archives’ press office on 0208 392 5277 or press@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

Notes to editors

The transfer process for non-public records will begin before the formal dissolution of the *London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG)* and continue until 2013.

The National Archives will also receive records from government departments relating to the Games as it does with other government records under the Public Records Act (1958).

Websites captured to the *UK Government Web Archive* and other publicly available records will be made accessible by The National Archives next year. Photographs and films will be opened after five years, while the remaining records will be closed for 15 years. Where appropriate, and subject to Data Protection legislation, closed records will be made available to the BOA, the British Paralympic Association (BPA) (where they relate to the Paralympics) and the organising committee for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2014. All the records held at The National Archives are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (2000).