

By email

Dear [REDACTED],
Somerset Safety Advisory Group
Somerset Balloon Festival, Yeovil Showground – 5-7th May 2023

As a Chair of the Somerset Safety Advisory Group (SAG), I have received correspondence from the Avon and Somerset Constabulary raising serious concerns with your event. A meeting has taken place with members of the SAG and these concerns are shared by other agencies. In particular the very late notice of your event, late submission of incomplete Event Safety Management documentation supporting your plans, including airspace notification correspondence with the CAA and the predicted attendance have been noted.

With such a large event, new to this site, agencies would have expected much earlier engagement. Responsible authorities are identifying significant struggles with time constraints and have very limited resource available to consider any further plans developed within the timescales.

I am therefore writing now on behalf of the SAG, to advise that the group are not in a position to support your event.

As the event organiser you may wish to reflect how this could impact on the planning for the event and what steps may be needed in order to satisfy yourself that all aspects of event planning and implementation will be satisfactorily dealt with to ensure the safety of all employees, contractors and public attending.

To confirm, the SAG is an advisory group and has no decision-making remit. The responsibility for the safe planning, organisation and running of any event lies with the event organiser and their team.

Yours sincerely



Vicki Dawson
Lead Specialist - Environment