

**STATEMENT ON
'THE NEW YEAR'S DAY PARADE & FESTIVAL 2016'**

Understandably, I have been contacted by a number of individual group leaders and individual parents with questions concerning the status of LNDYP 2016, and travel to London in the wake of last Friday evening's criminal activities in Paris.

I thought it might be helpful for you to have a statement of fact that you may publish to whomever you so wish.

LNDYP 2016 and Destination Events condemn unreservedly the disgusting criminal acts that took place in Paris last Friday evening.

In London and in England life has continued perfectly normally in every respect.

LNDYP 2016 – London's New Year's Day Parade and Festival will be going ahead as planned and advertised. At present there have been no discussions or plans regarding the cancellation of any part of the event or indeed the postponement or amendment of any part of the event.

London is at the same safety level today that it has been since October 2014. The threat level has not been raised or lowered since that date. This means that the threat or security alert level is identical to that when the LNDYP 2015 was successfully and peacefully operated, and exactly the same as that when band directors and group leaders visited London in the summer of 2015 to inspect and experience the programme and the plans for the event.

We are in frequent communication with the British Security Services who told us as recently as Sunday of this week that there is no current specific credible threat to London. London's New Year's Day Parade always has, and always will have, security appropriate to the event.

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After the attacks on New York City in September 2001 to enable us to give comfort in our contract regarding safety we sought the most competent and reasonable arbiters. We decided that those arbiters should be the Governments of the countries involved. Thus we selected the State Department of the United States of America as the arbiter for American citizens. The US State Department issues warnings to American citizens from time to time where they perceive unacceptable levels of risks to American citizens or residents travelling overseas.

Should the Department of State issue a warning against travel to London on the dates that you are due to travel, then you may cancel your Performance Tour without penalty save for a \$100 non refundable 'deductible'.

As further back up should the Home Office (Interior Ministry) of the United Kingdom Government warn American citizens that it is not safe to visit London, then even if the State Department has not issued a warning you may still cancel with only the \$100 deductible penalty.

I can only stress, and I know that I am speaking for my fellow seven million Londoners that life here continues perfectly normally, and that we are very much looking forward to welcoming you here in six weeks time to participate in our celebration of the start of 2016.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bone', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Robert C Bone
Executive Director