



Dear PARAS'10 tabbers and runners

Today is 5 June, three months out from PARAS'10 Catterick 2020

On 18 March we announced the postponement of 16 May PARAS'10 Colchester to 7 Nov. Back then, which seems a lifetime ago, we were confident that we would be able to stage PARAS'10 Catterick on 5 September. But this is a world where things are still changing on a daily basis and that is now far from certain; Dublin's marathon in October has already been cancelled; the London Marathon, reset for 4 Oct and the Great North Run, the week after Catterick, have both issued statements saying that there is no certainty of going ahead.

We know that you would like certainty. We understand that you want to know if you should start serious training. We're aware that you may have travel and accommodation decisions to consider. However, much as we would like to, we cannot give you that certainty. You will know that government advice is changing weekly, lockdown relaxation may bring new pandemic spikes, and we just cannot know what the status will be in September.

We are working hard on different possible options and, as government advice changes, we come up with new ideas. We have to consider your safety and well-being, as well as spectators, our event partners and those recruits who marshal the course and the serving soldiers who give up their weekend to host the event so brilliantly. But it's clear we cannot – and will not be allowed to - put the Army's primary infantry training establishment at risk.

Unlike commercial events, this race is organised by Support our Paras to fund the welfare of soldiers, veterans and families. Because welfare need has rocketed during COVID, and our fundraising has suffered, we need to stand by our no-refund policy and hope you will understand. Should we have to cancel, all who have entered will be given FREE transfer to a PARAS'10 event of your choice in 2021. We realise that some Catterick entrants have already transferred from Colchester, and we hope you will bear with us.

We are still planning on Colchester on 7 November, which will be a special day, falling as it does close to Remembrance Day.

We will give a further update on Catterick on Monday 15 June.

In the meantime stay safe. We will meet again.

Stephen Cooper, CEO Support our Paras (the bloke on the mic!)