



The cost of providing security for the London Olympics has risen by £271 million following a decision to recruit and train almost 14,000 more personnel.

The London 2012 organising committee (LOCOG) will now need nearly 24,000 venue security personnel plus specialist security equipment.

According to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) the decision to increase the number of security staff from 10,000 to 23,700 was not in response to "any specific security threat".

Olympics minister Hugh Robertson said that the additional spending would not put the Games over their £9.3 billion budget, because of savings of more than £910 million achieved by the Olympic Delivery Authority since 2007.

The Olympic programme remains "on time and within budget", with construction of stadiums and infrastructure now 92% complete, said Mr Robertson.

Meanwhile, the price tag for the opening and closing ceremonies has risen by £41 million, also doubling previous forecasts.

Mr Robertson said the decision to provide LOCOG with extra public money for the opening and

closing ceremonies was taken to take advantage of "a great national moment" which could generate advertising revenue of £2-£5 billion.

LOCOG's budget for the ceremonies has never been officially confirmed but was previously understood to have been £40 million.

Unveiling the latest quarterly report on the cost of the Games, Mr Robertson revealed that the ODA had achieved a further £42 million in savings between July and September. The overall funding package remains at £9.298 billion, with more than £500 million of spare cash available for contingencies.

But additional cost pressures include £271 million for security, £41 million for opening and closing ceremonies, £2.8 million for command, co-ordination and communications testing and £25 million for campaigns to boost the economic benefits of the Games, including tourism.

The anticipated final cost of construction, infrastructure and transport for the Games now stands at £6.856 billion - down £394 million since July. Including funding for transformation work, this rises to £7.189 billion - down £61 million.