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Professor Crow  
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Dear Professor Crow,

I apologise for writing after your deadline of 20 October, but we in the Sheffield Campaign Against Super Casino Expansion (SCASE) have only just found on your website Sheffield City Council's 13 page submission dated 3 October. Despite the instructions to copy in other contributors the Examination in Public, in Kate Rounce's e-mail of 20 September, this was not copied to us.

There are parts of this submission that cannot be left unchallenged.

First, in terms of GVA per head, Sheffield emerges not as typical but as the second lowest of the seven locations and well below the GB average. The communities surrounding the Lower Don Valley in Sheffield and Rotherham will have far lower GVA per head than the Sheffield average, let alone the UK average. It is our contention that a major reason for **not** choosing this location is the vulnerability of some of the disadvantaged people in these communities to the get rich quick temptations of the Regional Casino.

It is also relevant that you have received from Darnall Community Forum the results of a small survey showing opinion in Darnall as divided, with significant numbers against a regional casino in their area. No doubt, you will place this on your website.

Secondly, as regards air quality, we think that the assumption that the locations close to Junction 34 will be below the 2010 target by that date is optimistic. We note that the Council's submission itself states that it is 'difficult to be definitive'. Given that this area unusually combines heavy North-South and East-West traffic flows including the massive traffic flows generated by Meadowhall, the prudent course would be not to select it for a further project generating substantial traffic.

Thirdly, the letter from Tom Riordan, Chief Executive of Yorkshire Forward, refers to the research by Ernst and Young without acknowledging that Ernst and Young questioned the idea that a regional casino would generate extra wealth (page 37), saw a serious risk of displacement in city centre leisure facilities (page 45-6) and were deliberately cautious in their conclusion— it was only 'if Yorkshire is clear in its desire for a Regional Casino' that they recommended Sheffield (page 49).

Finally, you should be aware that the draft report of the Sheffield First Partnership Task Group included reservations about the Sheffield Neighbourhoods Information System (SNIS), which, according to the Council's earlier submission to your panel,

would provide ‘rigorous evaluation of the impacts of a regional casino.’ The draft states that ‘SNIS may not prove adequate for the following reasons:

- SNIS was not set up to identify change over time, rather to make time point comparisons of different parts of the city.
- The confidence intervals involved are wide.
- Some impacts will take a considerable length of time to emerge.
- Relevant indicators are missing, for instance, there are no measures of mental health or numbers of jobs/businesses created/lost.
- There could be a considerable impact on a small number of people but not on the general population; these would remain invisible.’

The draft recommends research to investigate the factors influencing the development (or not) of problem gambling, but notes the resource implications.

I hope this information will be useful to your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Jillian Creasy  
on behalf of Sheffield Campaign Against Supercasino Expansion