

SHEFFIELD

Here is summary of regional representations received in relation to Sheffield City Council's regional casino bid. The consultation period was between 24 May 2006 and 28 June 2006; the summary shows representations received up until 8 July 2006.

Objections

- We received 8 letters expressing opposition to Sheffield's regional casino candidature.
- Five of these letters expressed a general anti-gambling sentiment, and considered that any economic benefits brought by the proposed casino would be outweighed by significant social problems.¹
- Three of these groups and individuals were also concerned that the casino would profit overseas shareholders rather than the local economy, whilst diverting human resources from other leisure businesses in the area. Two in particular cited the Hall Aitken report.
- Two letters from local church groups opposed the casino bid on Sheffield on the grounds that it would exacerbate poverty and deprivation in the area. Both added that the development of a regional casino would be insensitive and offensive to the substantial Muslim population resident near the proposed casino locations.²
- One letter from the local branch of an anti-casino campaign detailed its main objections to the bid, most notably to a perceived lack of debate within the City Council and a lack of information provided to local groups. It also claimed that the Chamber of Commerce had misrepresented the views of local businesses and had failed to consult with small businesses. The group also forwarded minutes of a public meeting held, attended by 61.³

¹Matt Robson; Religious Society of Friends, 27 June 2006
Gary Grief, 30 May 2006
Gillian Wells, 22 May 2006
Peter Hurley, 18 May 2006
Michael Miller, 16 May 2006

² Revd William Shaw; Yorkshire Baptist Association, 24 June 2006
Church Action on Poverty in Sheffield, 8 May 2006

³Jillian Creasy; on behalf of Sheffield Campaign Against Supercasino Expansion (CASE), 28 June 2006