



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

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Dear Jane Bransby

Thank you for your letter of 11th November 2005 about the Casino Advisory Panel's scoping and research exercise. I am sorry to have taken so long to reply.

Whilst it would be inappropriate for the Government Office to comment on the suitability of particular locations for new casinos, I thought you may find it helpful if I highlighted some documents which have focussed on potential casino development in this region. You may well be aware of these already of course.

Yorkshire Forward commissioned Ernst & Young in 2005 to consider the impact of casino development in Yorkshire and the Humber and examine where the most appropriate locations for casinos may be in the region. A copy of that report is enclosed for your information. It concludes that only South or West Yorkshire could support a regional casino, and, that whilst Leeds may offer the lowest risk, the regeneration benefits suggest that Sheffield should be put forward by the region. The report concludes that Leeds, Sheffield or Hull could accommodate a large casino, and that small casinos could go to almost any reasonably large town.

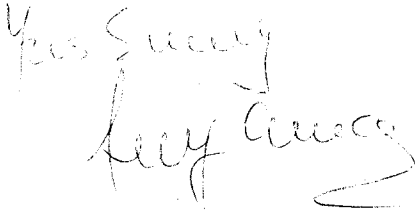
The Yorkshire and Humber Assembly are publishing the draft Regional Spatial Strategy public consultation this month and is likely to be subject to an Examination in Public in the Autumn. The draft Strategy says "Sheffield and Leeds will be the preferred locations for any future regional casinos ... [and] sub regional centres will be the preferred locations for any large or small casinos"



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Individual areas have also produced advocacy documents highlighting potential locations for casinos. I note that you are already in touch with local authorities directly and I am sure they will forward copies of these documents to you.

I hope this is of some help.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Felicity Everiss', written in dark ink.

FELICITY EVERISS