

## Mayor's Office

### Jane Bransby

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### Our ref:

**Date: 20 FEB 2006**

Dear Ms Bransby

I am writing further to Andrew Barry-Purssell's letter of 23 December 2005. I am afraid this letter was sent in error – it was an early draft. The letter should be ignored as it does not constitute my formal position.

My view is that London should have two regional casinos, at the Dome and Wembley. These are places identified in the London Plan as being particularly suitable for leisure-based regeneration:

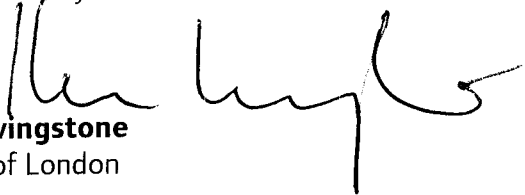
- The Greenwich Peninsula is a designated opportunity area within the East London sub-region (Policy 5C.2 and paragraph 5.78), where the Dome is identified as a potential leisure attraction of international significance. East London, of course, is a priority area for development, regeneration and infrastructure improvement, while the Thames Gateway is a national development priority. It is an area suffering significant levels of deprivation, high unemployment (with limited part-time opportunities) and problems of social exclusion. A regional casino at the Dome would play a vital role in sustaining the proposals for an arena and leisure-based complex there, which would in turn play a vital part in anchoring the development of the western part of the London Thames Gateway (which is, of course, a national, regional and local priority).
- Wembley is also identified as an opportunity area of national significance for leisure-related development (Policy 5D.2 and paragraph 5.103). It falls within the West London sub-region, which faces challenges arising from pockets of deprivation in places like Wembley and nearby areas such as Park Royal, Willesden and Kilburn. The potential of Wembley as a nationally and internationally significant sports, leisure and business location, coordinated with town centre regeneration and new housing is identified as a strategic priority in the Plan (Policy 5D.1).

## THE LONDON AGENDA

In both areas, casinos have been proposed as part of a larger-scale regeneration proposal of regional or national importance. The areas raise different regeneration challenges, and distinct issues such as mixture of development proposed so that these proposals would have much to contribute to the Government's initial pilot of new casino formats. I consider that both of these are a high priority for London, and important for regeneration of the city; it is on this basis I am minded to recommend them as suitable locations for regional casinos.

I hope this makes my position clear.

Yours sincerely



**Ken Livingstone**  
Mayor of London