

30 November 2005

Jack Perry

Jane Bransby
Secretary to the Casino Advisory Panel
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW 1Y 5DH

Dear Ms Bransby

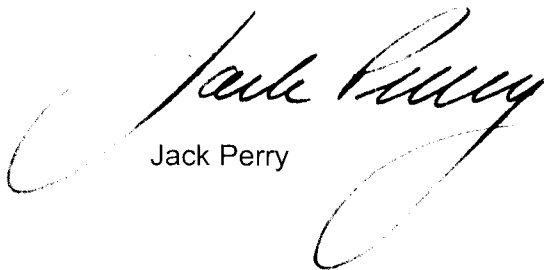
Thank you for your letter of 11 November regarding the Gambling Act and its provisions for new types of casinos in Great Britain.

As the Economic Development Agency with responsibility for lowland Scotland we recognise the potential contribution that such developments might make towards local economic regeneration and the enhancement of tourism infrastructure.

We note the timetable for proposals to be made by local authorities. We do not, at this stage, wish to comment on areas that may be suitable for new casinos other than to state that it will be important to secure net additional economic benefit from the investment opportunities that will arise from the Gambling Act, and to minimise the potential for social harm through problem gambling.

There are several locations across Scotland where brownfield sites in areas of high unemployment, in or close to established tourism destinations, could be regenerated by casino related investment. We would wish to see casino developments that can offer ease of access from international tourism gateways and provide facilities that will enhance Scotland's tourism infrastructure whilst minimising the displacement of other leisure industry expenditure in the economy.

We would welcome the opportunity for consultation on specific sites once local authorities have submitted their formal proposals to you.



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