



Ein cyf/Our ref MB-FM-0397-06

Professor Stephen Crow  
Chairman – Casino Advisory Panel  
Department for Culture, Media and  
Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
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SW1 Y5D



27<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Dear Stephen

### **Applications for Regional, Large and Small Casinos – Cardiff and Swansea**

I am writing following the recent decision to shortlist the applications made by Cardiff and the Swansea councils to host one of the classes of casino specified in the Gambling Act 2005. Both Cardiff and Swansea are vibrant and dynamic cities and their casino proposals are an important part of some exciting development plans to revitalise some of the more run down areas in both cities. I fully support their proposals.

With regards to the application made by Cardiff County Council for the Regional Casino, the development is intended to form the centrepiece of the planned Sports and Leisure Village. Located in the Cardiff Bay regeneration area, the Sports and Leisure Village is part of the ongoing redevelopment of some of Cardiff's more deprived and derelict dockland areas, and planning permission for a resort destination casino was for that reason granted in 2003. The overall complex proposed is outstanding and I am sure the Council will be happy to provide you with any details on their plans you require.

You will already be aware that Cardiff has been chosen as one of the venues for the 2012 Olympic Games and the council is actively involved in the work underway to ensure that the benefits of the Games are spread across the whole of the UK. The council is playing its full part in helping both the Olympic Delivery Authority and the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games to deliver the best Olympic Games ever. With a Regional Casino in place, the Sports Village's completion can be accelerated to be ready for 2010 and will then provide a training and support base for the home teams in readiness for the 2012 Olympic Games.

The overall development could create up to 5,000 jobs plus additional training opportunities and significant inward investment in the site and local area. Without a Regional Casino the development will be delayed and an outstanding opportunity for Wales lost. As one of Europe's youngest capital cities Cardiff is an exciting place to live and work and makes

good use of urban investment opportunities. Cardiff would certainly make a success of a regional casino.

The City and County of Swansea has been short listed as one of the potential locations for a Large or Small Casino. Swansea's unique position around its own natural waterfront bay as a modern maritime city including an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty provides it with considerable opportunities to exploit leisure and tourism markets. It has been undergoing a period of extensive regeneration over recent decades and the SA1 redevelopment of the enclosed docks has huge potential at a European level. The local authority's plans to develop the city centre and the marina, and with its strategic partnerships will create a significant regional magnet for inward investors and visitors. The hosting of a Large and/or Small Casino would be a major boost to Swansea's future plans.

Such an exciting new leisure facility would provide a major attraction to visitors, stimulate local leisure trade and create significant new employment opportunities. In addition, the development could have a positive impact in particular communities, helping increase economic activity in areas still suffering acute social and economic deprivation.

I know that both the Cardiff County Council and the City and County of Swansea would be happy to discuss any aspects of their applications with you and the Casino Advisory Panel. I look forward to the outcome of the Panel's deliberations.

I am copying this letter to Chris Holley, Leader of the City and County of Swansea and Rodney Berman, Leader of Cardiff County Council.

Yours  
Rhodri