

Final Stage of the Evaluation Process

1. The evaluation process will be the same for both regional proposals and large/small proposals, with the exception that appraisal of the regional proposals will be informed by the results of the EiP.
2. The evaluations will draw on, in respect of each shortlisted proposal :
 - the proposals as submitted.
 - all appropriate material from the EiP sessions (regionals only)
 - the answers to the previously circulated questions
 - all other relevant material
3. The earlier scoring system was an invaluable tool to inform the shortlisting stage and to identify the various strengths and weaknesses of the original proposals. These strengths and weaknesses were then explored in the circulated questions and EiPs (Regionals only). This final evaluation stage now completes this detailed consideration. It will concentrate on building from the initial appraisal, in the light of the analysis of the further evidence submitted and the Panel's relevant expertise, with reasoned, detailed, discussion.
4. All the shortlisted proposals should be considered carefully against the criteria set out in the Panel's Terms of Reference and in accordance with Government policy as set out in the Statement of National Policy dated 16th December 2004. The primary consideration is to ensure that the areas recommended to the Secretary of State provide the best possible test of social impact. Subsidiary to this is the need to include areas in need of regeneration (which are likely to benefit in regeneration terms from a casino) and to ensure that those areas are willing to license a new casino. The Panel will also identify areas for the new casinos that will provide a good range of types of areas and a good geographical spread of areas across Britain. This is in order to ensure that the impact of the new casinos can be assessed on the basis of a broad range of information and experience. The Panel is also required to ensure that, with respect to the regional casino, the chosen area is compatible with the broad locations identified in Regional Spatial Strategies or draft revisions of these before the First Secretary of State.
5. At this stage each member of the Panel will review the original proposal, and all other relevant material.
6. The agenda for the subsequent discussion will be as follows:
 - Each shortlisted proposal will be taken in turn, with each member considering his evaluation of it in the light of the above criteria. At this stage, the particular merits of each proposal will be evaluated on an individual basis, whilst drawing out the points which will facilitate a subsequent comparison with others.
 - There will then be discussion leading to a Panel decision on the merits of each proposal.
 - The Secretariat will make a note of the agreed evaluation, which will later form the basis of the final report.
 - In respect of the regional proposals, discussions are to take place leading to the identification of the winning proposal.
 - The reasons for this identification of a single regional proposal above all the others are to be agreed and recorded for the final report.

- Discussions are to take place as to competitive merit of balancing this relative factor as necessary against the need for a good geographical spread and a good range of types of areas. In this way, the identification of the winning proposals will be discerned.
- The reasons for the proposals chosen are to be agreed and recorded for the final report.

Prior to meeting, to discuss their decisions Panel members will have undertaken their own preparation in order to be able to address the proposed discussions.