

**GOVERNMENT PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIONS AGREED AT THE FIRST TOURISM SUMMIT  
ON 1 MARCH 2000 AND THE SECOND TOURISM SUMMIT ON 6 MARCH 2001**

<u>ACTION POINT</u>	<u>CURRENT POSITION</u>
FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS	
1. Set up a more formal network of official level contacts to ensure close working on policies affecting tourism. Network members will represent the full range of Departmental interests in support of Ministers (if necessary, requiring more than one official per Department to take part).	The Tourism and Hospitality Contact Group was set up in May 2000 and has met four times. The Group's existence has been notified to Parliament through an arranged PQ and publicised through the DCMS website and the ETC.
2. Consider the report of the Better Regulation Task Force, to be published early Summer, on the cumulative impact of regulation and enforcement on the hotel and restaurant sector and how to improve co-ordination of regulation and enforcement in this area.	The BRTF report was published at the end of June 2000. The Government's response to the report was published on 26 September 2000. This welcomed the report and emphasised the Government's determination to improve the regulatory environment for hotels and restaurants and for business in general. The Government has launched reviews of several areas of law highlighted in the report. DCMS has set up an industry working group, which first met on 26 February and subsequently on 3 more occasions, to monitor the pace of reform and ensure the interests of hotels and restaurants are taken into account. A number of the BRTF's recommendations have been completed.
3. Hold a further Summit in a year's time to monitor progress and decide on further action.	The second Summit was held on 6 March 2001.

<p>DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS</p>	
<p>4. Ensure that funds available to tourism projects under the Rural Enterprise Scheme and the Structural Funds (Objective 1 and LEADER+) are allocated with a knowledge of the regional tourism market.</p>	<p>The Rural Enterprise Scheme was launched on 3 October 2000 as part of the England Rural Development Programme (ERDP). By the end of December 2001, 268 tourism/craft applications had been received. Local tourist boards have been consulted where necessary for advice on the appropriateness of projects to the region.</p> <p>The Rural Enterprise Scheme is not available in Objective 1 areas. Here, farm tourism projects can apply for funding from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) under the adaptation and development measure included in each of the Single Planning Documents for Merseyside, South Yorkshire, and Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Currently, four such applications have been approved. This includes two large projects in Cornwall.</p> <p>In addition, funds for local tourism initiatives will be available under the England LEADER+ Programme. LEADER+ will complement mainstream programmes by piloting integrated bottom-up rural development strategies developed and implemented by local action groups. The Programme aims to help rural communities to help themselves in developing a sustainable economy, which can include sustainable tourism based on local distinctiveness. England will receive around £35 million of EU funding from 2001 to 2006 under the Programme.</p>
<p>5. Ensure proper coverage of tourism in the forthcoming Rural and Urban White Papers.</p>	<p>The Rural and Urban White Papers were published in November 2000. There are references in both White Papers to tourism, cultural, sport and media activities. Following publication of the Rural White Paper, a rural tourism strategy developed by the English Tourism Council and the Countryside Agency was published in May 2001.</p>

<p>6. Develop a project to encourage greater links between local food producers and the tourism industry.</p>	<p>The report of a joint MAFF/Countryside Agency research project on tourists' attitudes towards regional and local foods was distributed widely among the industry and published on the MAFF (now DEFRA) website in February 2001. The results of the report indicated a positive response, and provided information that could be used as a basis for developing policies and projects at a regional/local level to encourage outlets that service tourists to stock or use more local produce.</p> <p>With support via Food From Britain, Regional Food Groups are trying to establish the link between visiting an area and the regional food specialities available. For example, Taste of the West (the Regional Food Group for the West) produce a food trail leaflet suggesting people sample local specialities or visit farm based production enterprises.</p>
<p>7. Promote the potential of the inland waterways for leisure and tourism-related use.</p>	<p>Waterways for Tomorrow published on 27 June 2000 set out the Government's policies for the inland waterways and stressed the contribution they could make to regeneration, tourism and leisure. A national conference was held in March 2001 to discuss how to put the ideas in Waterways for Tomorrow into practice. Navigation authorities and other bodies connected with the waterways are now following up the conference's findings.</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT, TRANSPORT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE REGIONS</p>	
<p>8. Launch a pilot internet site in Cumbria offering public transport information linked to local attractions and consider lessons for possible extension nationwide.</p>	<p>The Travel Cumbria website was launched formally on 18 May 2000. It integrates the BTA's Visit Britain site and Cumbria County Council's journey planner, offering maps plotting hotels, attractions, rail and coach stations and other information.</p>
<p>9. Review implementation of the 1995 guidance to local authorities and the Highways Agency on signing for tourist attractions and facilities in England.</p>	<p>Draft revised guidance has been circulated for consultation and placed on the DTLR website. The deadline for responses is 2 April 2002.</p>
<p>10. Publish soon a research report into the effects of planning on tourism and launch a wide debate on the findings.</p>	<p>The report was published on the DTLR website in March 2001 and its findings and recommendations are currently being considered. Planning Policy Guidance note 21 (Tourism) is to be reviewed as outlined in the Planning Green Paper.</p>

<p>11. Launch a pilot project on car-free leisure and prepare a good practice guide.</p>	<p>The pilots projects have been completed, resulting in a travel plan for a single leisure site and an area-wide strategy for a tourism area. On 13 September 2001, Sally Keeble, Minister for Local Transport, launched a good practice guide resulting from this study Tourism without Traffic, published by Transport 2000.</p> <p>In addition, we are holding two seminars in late February, in York and in Bath, to help to exchange and disseminate the good practice.</p>
<p>12. Provide more money over the next three years to improve public transport, including more through-ticketing, better information and better facilities at interchanges, which will boost tourism.</p>	<p>The Spending Review 2000 provided the Department with £22,893m to spend on transport over the next three years (2001/02 to 2003/04), as set out in the 10 Year Transport Plan published in July 2000. This represents a substantial increase in funding for all sectors of transport, including public transport. For example, the allocation of £6,056m for 2001/02 is an increase of nearly 20% on the money available in the current year.</p> <p>As part of the first instalment of £180bn announced in the 10 - Year Plan, we are providing £8.4bn over the next 5 years to enable English local authorities to implement their local transport plans. Of this, £4.4bn will be available for public transport, including 28 major projects, £3bn for maintaining local highways, and up to £1bn for investment in major road schemes, including 39 major projects.</p> <p>In December 2000, DETR also published a consultation document on air transport policy, "The future of Aviation". A White Paper on Air Transport is due to be published in 2002. This will look 30 years ahead.</p> <p>We will be giving tourism a higher profile in our forthcoming review of the 10 year Transport Plan.</p>

13. Continue to focus on regeneration of coastal resorts through the Single Regeneration Budget, working with the ETC Resorts Task Force and improving bathing water quality.

Following the Government's commitment to regenerating our traditional resorts in Tomorrow's Tourism, in February 2001 the English Tourism Council (ETC) published a strategy document, 'Sea Changes - Creating World Class Resorts in England'. The ETC is currently working with the British Resorts Association and other key partners to take forward the implementation of the report's key recommendations.

Under new guidance RDAs should now explain in their Corporate Plans how they intend to work closely and co-operatively with DCMS and their local Regional Tourist Boards and how they will be involved with other regional, sub-regional and local authority bodies in the development and implementation of sustainable tourism strategies. These strategies will need to include the promotion of coastal resort regeneration.

The SRB will be subsumed into the RDAs' flexible Single Budget from April 2002. Thus, there will be no further national rounds of the SRB but RDAs will continue to support existing schemes under rounds 1-6 and those supported under the transitional arrangements for 2001/02.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, which provide a significant proportion of funding for neighbourhood renewal, also covers a number of major resorts. Eligible authorities include: Blackpool, Brighton & Hove, Great Yarmouth, Hastings, Southport - these resort authorities have been awarded some £30 million and others will also benefit.

We announced at the end of 2001 the best ever water quality results in England with bathing water quality in England for the 2001 season achieving a new record of 98% compliance. Out of 406 bathing waters tested, 397 passed the EC Directive's main mandatory tests. The target is at least 97% compliance before 2005.

In April 2001 the ETC published a set of 20 national sustainable tourism statistical indicators. Indicator 2 is the number of English beaches with blue flag and seaside awards. 308 beaches in the UK were awarded the yellow and blue 'Seaside Award' flag in 2001; 275 beaches met the strict Marine Conservation Society standards - 28% more than last year; 55 beaches in the UK were awarded the European Blue Flag in 2001.

14. Consider the scope for streamlining and improving the effectiveness of fire legislation affecting hotels and restaurants.

The Government remains committed to the reform of fire safety legislation and intends to undertake a public consultation this year on detailed proposals with a view to implementation by means of an order under the Regulatory Reform Act 2001.

The reform will provide for a new general duty of fire safety care on employers and owners and occupiers of almost all premises (except single private dwellings) to provide and maintain adequate fire precautions. The new duty which would, of course, apply to the operators of hotels and restaurants, would be goal based, not prescriptive. Any new legislation would simplify the existing law, repealing and consolidating existing legislation where appropriate.

DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS	
<p>15. Work closely with the hospitality industry to customize New Deal provision to the needs of the industry, challenge perceptions about the industry and address skill shortages, and provide practical support for the second Hospitality Careers Festival in October.</p>	<p>Phase 1 of the First Choice Working with New Deal was completed at the end of September 2000 with the achievement of 1,000 New Deal placements. The success was celebrated at a Ministerial Breakfast Event attended by Tessa Jowell where she asked the industry to help formulate future plans.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the pilot initiative, extended to a variety of other locations, commenced 1 October 2000 with an aim to place another 1,500 New Deal clients into the hospitality industry.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the 'First Choice Working with New Deal' recently met it's target of 2,500 job entries by the end of September 2001.</p> <p>Agreement has been reached with the industry to continue the work after September by maintaining work in targeted locations, particularly with local hospitality employers through the Gateway process, and measuring progress beyond New Deal from April 2002.</p> <p>The BHA Employment committee, comprising senior industry representatives, have endorsed future plans. Employment Service(ES) has been invited to become a permanent member of this influential group. This provides a forum to ensure the ongoing work maintains a high profile.</p> <p>Nick Brown launched the 2001 Careers Festival at the Chelsea Village and delivered the key note speech which launched a week of nationwide activities commencing on 15th October. The Festival is the key opportunity to highlight the industries opportunities for potential recruits.</p> <p>At a breakfast meeting on 12 December 2001 Nick Brown celebrated the success to date of the industry/ES partnership and outlined a future agenda. This included more New Deal 50+ work, retention/progression, SME's and Jobcentre Plus. The detail is being agreed by the BHA Employment Committee and the ES Local Account Manager network.</p> <p>Bob Cotton, Chief Executive BHA, has asked the 75 BHA local hotelier associations, representing SME's at local levels, to help further extend the joint agenda. He recently met with the ES district manager in Brighton, where he lives, to reinforce his personal commitment. He has brokered a meeting with the local hoteliers association as the first step.</p>

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS	
<p>16. Ensure greater coherence in delivering post-16 learning and training opportunities for the tourism industry through setting up the Learning and Skills Council next year.</p>	<p>The Learning and Skills Council became fully operational on 2 April 2001, and is responsible for planning and funding post-16 learning, focussing particularly on the skill needs of employers. It is already engaging closely with the tourism and hospitality sectors to identify and meet skill shortages (including tackling the problems of reskilling brought about by the foot and mouth crisis) and to develop a range of training opportunities which meet industry requirements. Vocational 'A' levels in Hospitality &amp; Catering, and in Travel &amp; Tourism have also recently been introduced, and the LSC will ensure that access to these qualifications are readily available.</p> <p>The LSC is also taking forward an initiative, backed by £100 million, to create specialist Centres of Vocational Excellence in at least half of all general FE colleges in England by 2003-4. These Centres will develop new and existing vocational provision to meet employer skill needs at national, regional, local and sectoral level. Sixteen CoVE Pathfinders came on stream in September 2001. One of the pathfinders at Lancaster and Morecambe College involves hospitality and catering training linked to the Lake District and west coast tourism industry. A further CoVE pathfinder at Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies is providing opportunities for hospitality and catering students to undertake work placements in hotels across the region and in London, and a number of trainees have also been placed with the growing cruise ship industry both in the UK and overseas.</p> <p>The Government has also made funds available to develop foundation and vocational degrees for people in work, including a prototype in hospitality and tourism. The first of these was launched in September 2001 and is designed to fill skill gaps at associate professional and higher technician level. Employers will be working with higher education to further design and deliver the Degrees, helping ensure they remain relevant to the fast-moving labour market.</p>

17. Continue to support National Training Organizations in hospitality and tourism, including the Hospitality Training Foundation's training initiative for micro-businesses.

DfES will not recognise the National Training Organisations network after 31 March 2002. From 1 April, DfES will fund a new Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA) and associated Sector Skills Councils (SSC) network.

Sector Skills Councils will be created by business for business and will be the main way in which employers can influence the skills agenda. SSCs represent a new relationship between employers and government throughout the UK. They are new influential employer-led bodies with a strategic responsibility to identify and tackle priority skills, productivity and employability issues for the private, public and voluntary sectors they represent.

Senior business leaders in the hospitality, travel and tourism sector have agreed to prepare a bid to form a SSC to lead on all issues concerning skills and learning.

In March 2002, the Hospitality Training Foundation (HTF) intends to launch the Open All Hours website for micro businesses that will amongst other things help to ensure the industry's small and micro businesses can be identified throughout the UK. The website will promote training and development to small businesses, including those working towards its "Training for Recovery" initiative, established in response to the foot and mouth crisis. An Employers Panel is now up and running, and will be a key tool in enabling employers to share their views on policy issues. Made up of 1000 respondents from across the industry in the UK, the panel draws together views on matters related to qualifications, skills and recruitment problems.

The Foundation has also produced a Sector Workforce Development Plan that sets out a skills and learning strategy for the industry to help increase competitiveness and ensure the sector can maximise its potential. The plan encourages all key stakeholders to work together to build a detailed implementation plan for the period to 2005. The Foundation has also stimulated employer interest in Investors in People through a series of awareness raising events. By June 2001, some 2,150 organisations had committed to IIP and 1200 had been recognised as meeting the standard.

FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE	
<p>18. Review regularly overseas visa sections to ensure they are as welcoming and user-friendly as possible.</p>	<p>On-going. As part of the regular round of reviews of individual overseas diplomatic posts, customer service standards continue to be scrutinised, under guidance from the FCO/Home Office Joint Entry Clearance Unit (JECU). A key aim is ensuring that visa applicants are always treated fairly and courteously.</p> <p>JECU issued a complete revision to the Best Practice for Entry Clearance Work in August 2001 which was distributed to all visa sections.</p> <p>JECU is also in close touch with the organising committee for the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games aiming to ensure that athletes and visitors are given a welcoming first impression of the UK from visa sections.</p> <p>The FCO has been supporting efforts by the British Tourist Authority and North West Tourist Board to boost tourism in connection with the Commonwealth Games.</p>
<p>19. Work with the British Tourist Authority and other bodies (including the Department of Trade and Industry) to provide a single channel of information about the UK to persons abroad.</p>	<p>Work in progress. With support from the British Tourist Authority, British Council, Trade Partners UK and Invest UK, the FCO has led a successful bid for Capital Modernisation Funds to create a UK portal site and on-line access points at strategic locations overseas such as British Embassies .</p> <p>The portal site is to be delivered in spring 2002 (originally planned for December 2001 but there have been some delays) followed by the first roll-out of 'information kiosks'.</p>
HOME OFFICE	
<p>20. Work with the tourist industry to ease entry procedures for genuine visitors, such as some tourist groups, and consider the need for "welcome" training for immigration officials.</p>	<p>All Immigration Officers and Entry Clearance Officers receive dedicated training on the professional standards and behaviour required when dealing with visa applicants and visitors to the UK and on equal opportunities, human rights and race relations legislation. The Immigration and Nationality Department continues to liaise closely with the British Tourist Authority regarding immigration service training courses.</p>

21. Discuss with interested parties how to exploit the tourism potential of the UK's ethnic and cultural diversity.

BTA has agreed to take this forward as part of their marketing and promotional role. Progress this year includes its award winning promotional campaign aimed at different sectors of society. BTA also continue to exploit cultural diversity (eg food) when promoting major cities. They have also produced a Bollywood film location map showing all the places in Britain where Bollywood is filmed.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY

22. Ensure the new Small Business Service is truly customer focussed and attuned to the needs of small tourism businesses, including micro-businesses.

The SBS now has in place a business support strategy 'Think Small First', aimed primarily at Government Departments and built on a detailed understanding of small businesses' needs, including those of start up and micro businesses who have less than 10 employees. The many small businesses in the Tourism sector can only benefit from the renewed focus on providing the right environment for small firms which this strategy introduces.

In addition, a number of business plans of the Business Link Operators (BLOs) local network have identified tourism as a priority for their areas and will be tailor services accordingly. In the medium term, the SBS will be happy to facilitate meetings between such BLOs and relevant tourism contacts.

SBS is currently in the process of establishing strategic relationships with other government departments and the private sector to ensure that the service provided to Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) is both relevant and of the highest quality. SBS is working with DCMS to ensure that the interests of SMEs in the creative industries, sports and tourism sectors are reflected in our service.

SBS has launched the Business Link Information and Advisory Service (the Gateway) comprising both a website ([businesslink.org](http://businesslink.org)) and a call centre (0845 600 9 006). The Business Link national web-site [www.businesslink.org](http://www.businesslink.org) aim over the short to medium term, is to be the major starting point for small businesses to log on to obtain authoritative, impartial information and access to advice to help them start and grow their businesses.

Presently the site provides business customers with fully searchable, generic business information and access to advice, presented in the form of "business topics". Options to incorporate a Life Event perspective into a future service release are currently under active consideration. A Life Event approach has a particular relevance when a small business is faced with a situation for the first time.

	<p>Personalisation is also now available providing a new dimension to the pro-active presentation of information to customers enabling them to view material that is relevant to their own interest.</p> <p>Work is also in hand to provide access to information on industrial sectors, through content provided by and links to the UK's leading trade associations and other Government Departments.</p> <p>In the longer term the businesslink.org website will offer small business customers the opportunity to pull through forms that will enable them to make transactions with Government.</p>
<p>23. Encourage the tourism industry to make full use of UK online for business (formerly known as the Information Society Initiative) to promote uptake of e-commerce amongst small firms including using the UK online for business network of advisers and marketing the e-commerce awards to the industry.</p>	<p>Now part of the wider 'UK online' campaign, UK on line for business has been backed with an extra £10 million this year and a further £15 million committed over the next 2 years. Extra finance is being focussed to support additional advisory capacity by recruiting 100 extra advisers into our advisory network, boost awareness and marketing activity including a multi-channelled Partnership Programme to enhance ways in which SMEs in all industry sectors can be reached.</p> <p>We have already placed a number of articles in the travel and tourism trade press and have made a series of award winning publications on a wide range of e-commerce issues, as well as a series of e-commerce case studies specifically in this sector.</p>

24. Work closely with the tourism and hospitality industry under the Industry Forum Adaptation Scheme to develop a new benchmarking project to exchange information on good industry practice.

The Industry Forum programme aims to transfer best practice, through access to practical expertise, involving the training of company personnel in the working environment. The Forum concept has been developed by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders with the leading automotive companies. Currently six sectors now have their own Industry Forum programmes based on the automotive model. Officials in DCMS and DTI have worked closely with industry representatives to develop the Forum proposals to improve quality, productivity and competitiveness in this sector. The programme was approved by SoS at DTI and was formally launched by Dr Kim Howells on 25 September 2001.

As part of this programme, officials in DCMS are also working with the SBS, their contractors and representatives of the hospitality and leisure sector to develop the Benchmark Index and the CONNECT series of best practice CD-ROMS for the hospitality and leisure sector. These tools have been successfully piloted and will also be available following the launch on 25 September 2001.

Research is ongoing into international best practice and critical business success factors by the Centre for Hospitality Industry Performance Research at the University of Surrey. Recruitment of 150 businesses in Cumbria, the South West and London is underway in order to undertake field trials of the benchmarking tools, workplace development tools and an accreditation process. 12 Business Enterprise Advisors have been recruited and trained to support these pilot projects.

DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE MEDIA & SPORT	
<p>25. Provide funds under round 2 of the Invest to Save Budget for a pilot project to help small tourism businesses to use new technology to communicate with central and local government and each other.</p>	<p>A business-to-business extranet has been developed for the Lizard Peninsula Tourism Association (LPTA). The extranet provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· all tourism businesses in the area with access to government and regulatory information, and links to sources of local, regional and national expertise, plus the facility for businesses to join LPTA online.</li> <li>· LPTA members access to a range of services including a bulletin board, an image library, details of the Association's business and tools for LPTA members to maintain data on their business.</li> <li>· facilities to co-ordinate the content of the site and manage the membership database and activities.</li> </ul> <p>The programme to encourage tourism related businesses in the Lizard Peninsula to make full use of the facilities available on the extranet is now well underway.</p> <p>Under round 4 of the Invest to Save Budget, the ETC have submitted an expression of Interest for RESTOUR a project to aid the recovery and re-engineering of English tourism through the creation of an online tourism community.</p>
<p>26. With the Department of Trade and Industry discuss with relevant bodies implementation of the recommendations of the Tourism Consumer Group on improving price transparency in hotels, and in particular will consult on proposals to modernize the Tourism (Sleeping Accommodation Price Display) Order 1977.</p>	<p>Implementation by the hotels industry of recommendations on hotel telephone charges, handling complaints and cancellation charges is nearly completed. Initial consultation on review of the 1977 Price Display Order ended on 31 October 2000. A decision on whether to propose any revision to the Order is currently being considered.</p>

<p>27. Support the English Tourism Council, the AA and the RAC in bringing more properties within the voluntary inspection schemes to secure accommodation quality.</p>	<p>The ETC/AA/RAC quality assurance standards for hotels and guest accommodation have been strongly endorsed and widely promoted by DCMS Ministers, in order to increase awareness and take up of the scheme. Targets relating to this have also been included by DCMS in the ETC's Funding Agreement and one being drawn up with the new London Mayor.</p> <p>In addition, the ETC has been supported by Ministers in its successful launch of 'Stepping Stones' (an interim inspection system aimed at encouraging establishments to raise standards to the basic entry point to the main scheme.) Ministers are also promoting the new schemes launched for holiday parks and self-catering establishments. Almost all of the accommodation sector now has new quality assurance standards including: hotels, guest accommodation including B&amp;Bs and farmhouses, caravan parks, self-catering accommodation, holiday villages, campus accommodation and hostels; a quality scheme is also being developed for attractions. Ministers are keen to promote extension of the accessible scheme for accommodation, which aims to ensure that people with disabilities are suitably catered for.</p>
<p>28. Report on the outcome of the Summit to the Tourism Forum on 18 April and publish a report, subject to consulting other Departments.</p>	<p>Report made to Tourism Forum on 18 April 2000. Summary leaflet published in June 2000 following clearance by Departments. Further progress reports presented to the Tourism Forum on 21 November 2000, 11 April 2001 and 7 November 2001.</p>

29. Publish a White Paper proposing to modernise liquor and public entertainment licensing law (including the "two-in-a-bar rule"), allowing more consumer choice and increasing attractiveness to visitors.

The White Paper "Time for Reform: Proposals for the Modernisation of our Licensing Laws" was published on 10 April 2000. It set out proposals for the comprehensive modernisation of liquor and public entertainment licensing laws in England and Wales. When publicising the White Paper the Home Secretary invited comments by the end of July. Over 1200 were received, and the majority supported the Government's proposals, although some had reservations on points of detail.

After considering the responses, Home Office Ministers announced on 2 May 2001 that they would press ahead with reform based on the proposals in the White Paper, except for a change to the appeals system.

Responsibility for licensing law was transferred to the DCMS following the Election. Although room could not be found for the reform Bill in the congested 2001/2002 legislative programme, Ministers have confirmed publicly that a Bill will be introduced as soon as Parliamentary time is available.

30. Decide on the outcome of consultations to de-regulate Sunday dancing and restaurant opening.

On 21 December 2000, Home Office Ministers made a deregulation order ending the 220 year-old prohibition on commercial dancing on Sundays. It became law on 28 December. A separate order providing the opportunity for premises to apply for extended drinking hours on Sunday nights, where music and dancing takes place under a public entertainment licence, was approved by Parliament and came into force on 19 March 2001.

The Home Office completed a public consultation on a proposal to deregulate restaurant hours in January 2000. The proposal would (a) exempt premises with restaurants from the need to obtain a supper hour certificate to serve alcohol with meals for an additional hour beyond permitted hours; and (b) end the requirement that licensing justices may only grant an extended hours order up to 1am if the restaurant provides live entertainment.

The Home Office laid a draft deregulation order for Parliamentary scrutiny on 26 March 2001. Reports were submitted in May by the Deregulation Committees in the House of Commons and the Lords, who both agreed with proposal (a) but did not favour proposal (b). As a result Ministers tabled the draft Order for the second stage of its Parliamentary scrutiny on 24 January 2002. Further reports from the Parliamentary scrutiny Committees are now awaited.

<p>31. Launch a review of gambling law which will take account of the desirability of maximising the economic benefits to the UK; and meanwhile consider any scope for interim deregulation</p>	<p>The independent gambling review body reported to Government at the end of June and its report was published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (which assumed responsibility for gambling as part of the post-election machinery of government changes) in July. The report contains 176 individual recommendations aimed at streamlining and modernising the licensing and regulation of gambling in this country. Publication of the report launched a period of consultation which ended on 31 October 2001. Some 280 formal submissions were received, together with over 3500 items of correspondence about individual recommendations. A number of submissions drew attention to potential benefits and risks for the tourist industry arising from particular recommendations. All submissions are currently being considered, and the Government remains on course to announce, by the end of March 2002, how it intends to take forward its reform programme.</p> <p>In the meantime DCMS is continuing with a limited programme of regulatory reform measures. Of the two Orders that were mentioned in the previous Progress Report, the one to relax certain restrictions on bingo is currently being progressed, and a second stage Order under the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act has now been laid. The other in respect of gaming machine payment methods, will be reviewed in the light of the wider consultation exercise before decisions are taken on whether it should be progressed ahead of the implementation of the wider package of reforms flowing from the gambling review.</p>
<p>32. Fund a scoping study to identify the benefits of extending to hotels the joint DEFRA/DTI Envirowise programme on environmental best practice.</p>	<p>The final report for the waste minimisation scoping study was published on 30 September 2001. DCMS will investigate with DEFRA what further scope exists to promote the Hospitable Climates Energy Efficiency programme and whether waste minimisation could be included in the future.</p>
<p>33. Announcement of a new working group of industry representatives and Government officials to take forward recommendations in the BTA's report First Impressions on the reception of overseas visitors.</p>	<p>The Working Group met for the second time in October 2001. At this meeting, which was attended by Dr Kim Howells, members divided the recommendations into three categories: short term actions, actions to be taken account of in the planning process and actions involving considerable time and resources. The Working Group is now preparing a report, which will document progress on implementing the recommendations, for presentation to the Minister in April/May.</p>