

INDEPENDENT LICENSING FEES PANEL MEETING

THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2006

Attendees

Sir Les Elton (Chair)
Clive Allen
Duncan Bowdler
Francis Patton
Brian Wilson
Paul Woods

Wendy Shales – Secretariat
Tim Crowhurst – Secretariat

Key issues and Action Points

Licensing Authority Income and Costs Data Capture Exercise

- There was a general discussion about the Phase 1 and Phase 2 data received so far from licensing authorities, how it would be collated and analysed, and future Panel visits to licensing authorities.
- Trade organisations and other licensee representative bodies would be asked to provide an update on impact (cost and savings) of the new regime.
- For the following part of the meeting, the Panel was joined by :
 - Cllr Graham Brown – LGA Deputy Chair of Safer Communities Board (Powys County Council)
 - Trish O’Flynn – LGA official
 - Jonathan Evans - LGA official
 - David Mellor – LGA official
 - Mark Duval – LACORS official
- Panel advised that there had been a reasonable percentage return for phase 1. Phase 2 had also provided a reasonable return so far.
- Panel confirmed that they had not reached any conclusion yet as a result of the Phase 1 and 2 exercises. It would be helpful if the LGA would continue to persuade non-respondents to take part in this process – the more licensing authorities that provided information the better it would be for the Panel’s considerations.
- The important issue now for the Panel was how to go about extracting, evaluating and interpreting the information provided. Analysis would be undertaken in order to obtain a good understanding of why authorities were reporting different positions on income and costs, deficits and surpluses.

- It had been agreed that all the returns received, including subsequently amended returns, would be forwarded to the LGA so that both Panel and LGA have the same raw data.
- It was agreed that a Panel sub-group would meet with LGA and DCMS statisticians shortly [*meeting subsequently arranged for 6 March*] to agree how returns with errors/ anomalies and queries are dealt with in order to establish consistent raw data sets from which both the Panel and LGA can work. Also, to decide how to deal with licensing authorities where queries need rectifying.
- LE reminded LGA that they had agreed with Ministers to provide recommendations in advance of their full report in the autumn, where they were able to do so, but could not provide a definitive timetable for that at this stage. Panel would make a decision about when the final 'cut-off' date would be for receiving licensing authority data.
- It was agreed that LGA would attend a future Panel meeting – probably after the Phase 3 returns had been collated.

AoB

- Date of next full Panel meeting is Thursday 23 March.