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## **Independent Panel Appointed To Advise Government On New Casino Locations**

An independent panel to advise the Government on the areas in which the new types of casino created by the Gambling Act will be located was appointed by Richard Caborn today.

The Casino Advisory Panel will be chaired by Professor Stephen Crow, CB. He will be supported by 4 other members; Christopher Collison, James Froomberg, Neil Mundy and Deep Sagar.

The Panel will start work on 3rd October and will report by the end of 2006. Based on the Panel's advice, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport will specify the areas for the 17 new casinos (1 Regional, 8 Large and 8 Small) in a Parliamentary order at the beginning of 2007. This order will require the approval of Parliament.

The Panel will begin their work by inviting expressions of interest from Local Authorities. Local Authorities unwilling to license a new casino will not be considered.

The primary consideration of the Panel will be to ensure that the areas identified satisfy the need for the best possible test of social impact. They will also take into account the potential for regeneration in the areas. The Panel will also invite the Regional Planning Bodies in England to identify a broad list of locations for the regional casino.

Once Parliament has approved the areas for the new casinos the relevant local authorities (or in Scotland licensing boards) will be able to run competitions for the new casino premises licences. The Secretary of State will issue a code of practice concerning the conduct of these competitions before they begin.

Minister for Sport and Gambling, Richard Caborn said:

"I'm pleased to be able to appoint a panel with such a wealth of experience. This is a unique and important role. It will require them to observe the highest standards of impartiality, integrity and objectivity. Our priority is to get a proper assessment of the social impact new types of casino will have, particularly on problem gambling.

"I know there has already been a great deal of speculation over the location of the new Regional casino. This isn't surprising given the regeneration benefits it will bring. But the appointment of this panel shows there are no favourites or front-runners. The slate has been wiped clean and every local authority will have the chance to make its case."

Casino Advisory Panel Chair, Professor Stephen Crow said:

"Our work represents an important stage in the implementation of the new Gambling Act. The public will rightly expect that our procedures will be scrupulously fair and that all proposals will be rigorously examined. So this is what we are going to do — fairness and rigorous examination will be our watchwords."

These appointments were made in line with Public Appointment rules. They will be for a duration of approximately 12-15 months with effect from 3 October 2005. Remuneration for these appointments is £350 per day for the Chairman, and £250 per day for Panel Members, plus reasonable expenses. None of the appointees has undertaken any significant political activity in the last five years.

### **Notes to Editors**

1. The Panel will advise on the areas in which new casinos should be located in Scotland, Wales and England. Northern Ireland is not covered by the Gambling Act.
2. The three new categories of casinos will differ in size and in their entitlement to gambling facilities:
  - The Regional casino will have a minimum total customer area of 5,000m<sup>2</sup>, and be permitted up to 1,250 Category A unlimited jackpot gaming machines.
  - Large casinos will have minimum total customer area of 1,500m<sup>2</sup>, and be permitted up to 150 Category B1 gaming machines, with a maximum jackpot of £4,000.
  - Small casinos will have minimum total customer area of 750m<sup>2</sup>, and be permitted up to 80 Category B1 gaming machines. The one regional and eight large casinos will be permitted to offer bingo, and all three categories will be permitted to offer betting.

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### **Biographical details**

#### **Prof Stephen Crow CB**

Stephen Crow is an eminent practitioner of Statutory Planning, having held one of its highest offices in Britain as Chief Planning Inspector (1988-1994) and Chief Executive (1992-1994) at the Planning Inspectorate. From 1995 until 1999 he was the Independent Planning Inspector for the Isle of Man, and in 1998-1999 he chaired the Public Examination of the draft Regional Planning Guidance for SE England, for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. He has a continuing role as Honorary Professor of Town & Country Planning Practice at the School of Urban and Regional Planning, Cardiff University, beginning in 1995. He has experience of all aspects of appeal and quasi-judicial processes relating to statutory planning, including examinations in public.

#### **Christopher Collison**

Christopher Collison is an independent planning and regeneration advisor who was until recently Deputy Chief Executive at Mansfield District Council. He had previously served the Council as a Director in various capacities, including the role of Strategic Director of Planning and Economic Development. His earlier career in Town and Regional Planning included periods with Nottinghamshire County Council and Greater Manchester County Council. He has expertise in the analysis of deprivation and areas suffering economic decline, and has played a leading role in successful regeneration and renewal programmes.

#### **James Froemberg**

Since 2003 James Froemberg has been Commercial Director at British Waterways, a publicly-owned corporation responsible for the country's 2000-mile network of rivers and canals. His role is to lead the development of a range of businesses and Public-Private Partnerships that generate a positive social and economic impact upon the communities served by the network, as well as income for British Waterways. He was Director of Corporate Development at Wembley plc from 1999 to 2003, building up racing and gaming businesses here and in the USA. He was previously a Partner with KPMG, leading on leisure, tourism and property development consulting.

#### **Neil Mundy**

Neil Mundy is a Chartered Public Finance Accountant with over twenty years' experience in regeneration and was Director of Integration, and Director of Finance and Corporate Services, at ONE North East Regional Development Agency from 1999 until 2004. He was Director of Finance and Deputy Chief Executive of Tyne & Wear Development Corporation from 1992 and, at the end of a successful period of operation, was responsible as Chief Executive for the Corporation's exit strategy, leading to its dissolution in 1998. His earlier career included management consultancy, specialising in Urban Renewal with KMG Thomson McLintock

(now KPMG), and in local government finance with the London Borough of Brent. He is currently a Non-Executive Director of the Port of Tyne Authority and of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust, and is Chairman of the UK Microsystems and Nanotechnology Network Group.

**Deep Sagar**

Deep Sagar is Director of Glasgow Employer Coalition, which works to move benefits claimants to jobs or training. From 2001-2004 he was a Client Director with Ashridge Business School. This followed senior management roles internationally with multinationals including Unilever-BestFoods and then CocaCola. He is currently Chairman of Patchwork Community Housing Association and Turnstone Support Limited, Board Member of Parkside Housing Group and Evesham & Pershore Housing Association, and Committee Member of the Law Society of Scotland.

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