

ANNEX A

From the Chairman of the Casino Advisory Panel

2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH

17 May 2006

To: The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell MP
Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport

Madam,

1. I have the honour to present the second progress report of the Casino Advisory Panel.
2. At the end of January 2006, the Panel invited local authorities in Scotland, Wales and England by 31st March 2006 to submit proposals for one or more of the casinos to be permitted to be located in their areas. This call for proposals requested responses to a set of questions seeking detailed information on a number of topics designed to inform us as to criteria related to the Panel's terms of reference and Government policy generally. The topics were:
 - Type of area
 - Social Impact
 - Need for regeneration
 - Willingness to licence
 - Probability of implementation
 - Regional Context
 - Community benefits
 - Unique characteristics
3. In the event, the Panel received 68 formal proposals from local authorities as follows.
 - Regional (27)
Blackpool; Brent; Cardiff; Chesterfield; Coventry; Dartford; Dudley; Glasgow; Great Yarmouth; Greenwich; Havering; Hull; Ipswich; Leeds; Manchester; Middlesbrough; Midlothian; Newcastle; Newport; Sheffield; Solihull; Southampton; Southend-on-Sea; Sunderland; Thurrock; Wakefield and West Dunbartonshire.
 - Large & Small (41)
Bath & NE Somerset ;Bournemouth; Bradford; Brighton & Hove; Cannock

Chase; Canterbury; Carlisle; Chelmsford; Chester; Derby ; Dover; Dumfries & Galloway; East Lindsey; Falkirk; Harrogate; Hastings; Leicester; Luton; Maidstone; Mansfield; Milton Keynes; Newham; NE Lincolnshire; Peterborough; Renfrewshire; Restormel; St Helens; Salford ; Scarborough; Sefton; Sevenoaks; Shepway; South Tyneside; Surrey Heath; Swansea; Swindon; Taunton Deane; Torbay; Westminster, Woking and Wolverhampton.

4. A number of authorities requested to be allowed to license more than one casino and a number also indicated that they would be prepared to license one or more smaller casinos if they did not secure their first choice. One proposal from Woking Borough Council was later withdrawn, leaving 67 to be considered. Details of the proposals were published on the Panel's website following the local elections on 4th May.
5. The examination of proposals began at once, using a simple marking process that did not in itself determine the outcome of the sifting, but rather was designed to inform reasoned discussion. This combination of marking system and reasoned discussion produced a provisional short list of eight proposals for the one regional casino that should go forward to further examination. A similar process was used in respect of proposals for large and small casinos, bearing in mind that some submissions contained a fall back position proposing one or more casinos in a smaller category. This process yielded a provisional shortlist of 31 competing proposals for the 8 large and small casinos.

Those shortlisted for regional casino (8) are:

Blackpool; Brent; Cardiff; Glasgow; Greenwich; Manchester; Newcastle; Sheffield.

Those shortlisted for large and small casinos (31) are:

Bath & NE Somerset; Bournemouth; Brighton; Canterbury; Chelmsford; Dartford; Dudley; Dumfries and Galloway; East Lindsey; Gt Yarmouth; Hastings; Hull; Leeds; Leicester; Luton; Mansfield; Middlesbrough; Milton Keynes; Newham; N E Lincs; Peterborough; Restormel; Scarborough; Sefton; Solihull; Southampton; South Tyneside; Swansea; Thurrock; Torbay; Wolverhampton

6. The provisional shortlists are to be the subject of consultation and advertisement on the website before finalisation. This will be the occasion for consultees (Regional Planning Bodies, Regional Development Agencies and comparable bodies in Wales and Scotland) to pass to the Panel any further views and for members of the public to express their opinions on the proposals, whether of opposition or support. Here the public is being reminded that national policy about casinos has already been decided by Parliament. The help here that the Panel is requesting is for people's views on the broad location of casinos.
7. After this consultation, the Panel will further test the strength of selected competing proposals. This will be done either through the medium of public

“round table” conferences based on the method of examination-in-public (EiP) or through the examination and consideration of written representations and other material. EiPs are likely to take place from the end of August to the end of September and will be limited to proposals for the regional casino. Proposals for large and small casinos will be examined on the basis of written evidence.

8. Our next report will be made in late June once the shortlists for further consideration are finalised.

I have the honour to be

Madam,

Your obedient Servant

Prof. Stephen Crow CB

Chairman of the Casino Advisory Panel