

Directorate of Public Health
Brent PCT
Wembley Centre for Health and Care
116 Chaplin Road
Wembley
HA0 4UZ

Tel: 020 8795 6748
Fax: 020 8795 6751
Email: Judith.Stanton@brentpct.nhs.uk

Jane Bransby,
Secretary to the Casino Advisory Panel,
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH

8th August 2006

Dear Jane,

I am writing to request the opportunity to participate in the examination in public for the Wembley casino.

I would particularly like to report to the Casino Advisory Panel on a recent health impact assessment of the Wembley casino. The purpose of the workshop was to assess the social and health impacts of the proposed casino. The participants came from a wide range of backgrounds including school nurses, drug and alcohol services, the community, the local authority and a schoolboy on work experience.

Those attending recognised the potential employment, regeneration and economic benefits that a casino could bring but raised concerns about a number of areas. These included:

- Increased problem gambling resulting in problems with mental health, drugs and alcohol, family dysfunction and domestic violence.
- Transport, pollution, and the environment - particularly in the context of significant congestion currently around the Wembley site with further expansion planned.
- Short term consequences of construction in terms of the influx of workers and the associated health & safety issues.
- Income stress on families with low income.
- Increases in crime.
- Further strain on services and local resources which are already under pressure.

Participants emphasised the racial, cultural, and religious diversity within Brent. Brent is, for

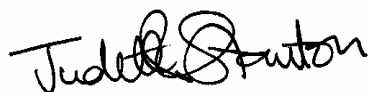
instance, one of 2 white minority boroughs in the UK. Brent is also relatively deprived with stark differences between the most affluent and deprived areas and similarly significant inequalities in health and social outcomes. Male life expectancy in Harlesden ward, for instance, is 11 years less than in Northwick Park ward which is just 3.5 miles away.

The ethnic diversity and deprivation within Brent mean that certain sectors of Brent's population could be disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of the casino. The development of a regional casino in Brent would be at odds with the religious, cultural and faith beliefs of substantial portions of the community.

While the health and social impacts of the casino identified above were recognised in the economic impact assessment of the Wembley casino the only negative impact that was actually quantified was the additional congestion caused by the casino. Further work undertaken within the PCT has indicated that quantifying the cost associated with the increase in problem gambling has a significant impact on the net economic assessment.

I would therefore very much welcome the opportunity to participate in the Examination in public to ensure that the potential health impacts, both positive and negative, from the casino are fully taken account of by the Casino Advisory Panel in making its decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Stanton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Dr. Judith Stanton
Director of Public Health