



Our Ref: MB/pd

South Western Region

27th June 2006



Professor Steven Crowe
Chairman
Casino Advisory Panel
2/4 Coxspur Street
LONDON
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Professor Crowe,

Cardiff International Sports Village – Regional Casino

I write on behalf of the GMB in respect of the consultation you are currently undertaking regarding the above.

Cardiff is a European Capital city which is modern, diverse and cosmopolitan and because of its proximity and accessibility to the South Wales valleys, the M4 corridor and west of England, it is ideally situated to become a major driver for economic regeneration in the Region.

A regional casino based in Cardiff Bay would allow for a regeneration of a major brown field site as well as providing opportunities to develop a whole range of world class sporting and visitor facilities which would bring new well-paid sustainable jobs to Cardiff, thereby regenerating the local and regional economies.

The GMB has no hesitation in supporting the Cardiff bid because of the opportunities it would provide and we congratulate the Council and its Casino partner (Aspers) on their willingness to work with the GMB through an already signed Partnership Agreement that will allow the Union to negotiate well-paid, sustainable jobs for the long term.

Partnership is the name of the game in this bid and the willingness to address any concerns of the Community, Faith Groups, the Police and Trade Union is demonstrated in the setting up of a group called Community Action for Responsible Gaming. This Group's remit is to draw up a co-ordinated action plan that will address and respond to any social issues relating to the casino operation.

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In addition to the points made above, I would conclude by saying that Cardiff's bid is ready for commencement now. No central Government funding is needed to bring the scheme forward and if the scheme is given the go ahead, the development will be ready in time for the 2012 London Olympics with completion planned for 2010. This will give Cardiff the opportunity to provide facilities for visiting teams as a lead up to the Olympic Games and will inspire young people from local communities and assist the Government and Council's aims to further develop a healthy attitude to life and develop young athletes we need for the future.

I commend the bid to the Casino Advisory Panel and have great pleasure in adding the GMB's support to an ever increasing pool of people and organisations from all parts and facets of the community in Cardiff and South Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Burnett', written in a cursive style.

Mervyn Burnett
SENIOR ORGANISER