

07 August 2006

Kate Rounce  
Casino Advisory Panel Secretariat  
c/o Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London  
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Kate

**Casino Examination in Public**

I write to request that I be considered for the round table discussion group with the Casino Advisory Panel in Newcastle on 5 September 2006.

I am the Chief Executive of NewcastleGateshead Initiative, a partnership with over 160 business members drawn from the private sector, tourism, transport and hoteliers, both from within NewcastleGateshead and beyond in the wider North East region. As a destination marketing agency, convention bureau and events promotion agency we have an up to date knowledge of the current and potential tourism and visitor patterns in the city. We work closely with many of the existing leisure and hotel operators in the city developing leisure and business tourism, and currently manage a bureau which brings conference business to the region. The proposal for a regional casino in Newcastle has major implications for both our future work and the interests of our existing membership.

I am also the Executive Director of the Tyne and Wear Area Tourism Partnership. I have been responsible for the regions' cultural regeneration strategy in a previous role as Chief Executive of Northern Arts, am a Governor of Gateshead College and Council Member of Durham Cathedral. I feel that I can bring a number of independent perspectives to the discussion on the issues surrounding the Casino.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Dixon  
Chief Executive

**NewcastleGateshead Initiative**

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