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Ms Jane Bransby
Casino Advisory Panel
Dpt Culture Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London
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28th June 2006

Dear Ms Bransby

re. Sheffield's application for a Regional Casino Licence

Following our telephone conversation last week, I would be grateful if you could pass on this letter and the enclosed minutes of a public meeting, held in Sheffield on 22nd June, to the Casino Advisory Panel. I apologise for the lateness of this submission, I had not realised what a tight timescale was required in order for the panel to make its decision by December 2006.

The public meeting brought together a range of objectors to the City Council's policy of seeking a Regional casino for Sheffield. We are forming a steering group and wish to make representations to the Panel when it holds its inquiry into Sheffield's case. Our evidence would include:

1. Critique of the economic case as set out in the Ernst and Young report commissioned by Yorkshire Forward, and the City Council's application, with particular reference to local multiplier effect and displacement from existing leisure industry.
2. Environmental factors including problems associated with the M1, congestion and air quality in the city (which already breaches European standards in the east end of the city).
3. Social and health factors including evidence produced by the East End Quality of Life Initiative (a Council sponsored initiative) and local public health physicians.
4. Moral case including statements from local Christian and Moslem bodies.
5. Democratic deficit, including refutation of evidence of "Sheffield's willingness to license a casino" as set out in section 4 of the application:
 - a. Lack of debate in Council itself
 - b. Lack of consultation with Sheffield First (the Local Strategic Partnership Board) prior to the application by the City Council
 - c. Failure to carry out investigation into health effects prior to application (despite a Cabinet level commitment to do so)
 - d. Lack of information to local groups (other than by casino developers)
 - e. Misrepresentation of views of local businesses via Chamber of Commerce and Industry and failure to consult small businesses

We look forward to presenting further information on all of the above to the Panel.

We would ask you to consider holding your inquiry in Sheffield itself, which would make it much easier for local people to contribute to and witness the process.

Please confirm that this letter and the minutes of the meeting will be considered by the panel and please keep me informed about arrangements for giving evidence to the forthcoming inquiry.

Many thanks,

Cllr Jillian Creasy, on behalf of Sheffield Campaign Against Supercasino Expansion