

Kate Rounce  
Casino Advisory Panel Secretariat  
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Dear Kate

### **Sheffield's bid to host a Regional Casino**

Please may I express my desire to speak at the Casino Advisory Panel Examination in Public (EiP) in Sheffield on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

I am a local Councillor of Sheffield City Council, representing the Darnall ward. Darnall is one of the communities that will be most effected should a regional casino be located in Sheffield, given the Council's stated preference for the Lower Don Valley area.

Darnall has a large Muslim population and was recently identified in the national press as the poorest area in the UK (CACI report 2006 see <http://www.caci.co.uk/pdfs/won2006abridged.pdf> page 8).

I am also the Chair of Darnall Area Panel, a practising Muslim and a long standing resident of the area. As such I am able to speak to you in detail about the views, challenges and aspirations of the people of Darnall.

Clearly, given the large Muslim population, there are a number of important community and social cohesion issues connected with proposals to locate a regional casino near Darnall. I have been discussing these issues for many months with community groups and individuals and would like to explore these with you in greater detail on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

As a result of these discussions, I wholeheartedly support Sheffield's bid for a regional casino. I believe that, with effective management, a regional casino can have a hugely positive effect - the opportunities for new jobs and business opportunities represent a massive opportunity for the people of my ward and the city in general. Whilst Sheffield is definitely a city on the up, the regeneration that would be derived from a regional casino would be unrivalled for many years.

I believe I am uniquely placed to represent the views of an important community in this debate. I therefore ask you to consider my request to speak with you on 6<sup>th</sup> September

Yours sincerely

Cllr Mazher Iqbal