

7 August 2006

Kate Rounce
Casino Advisory Panel Secretariat
DCMS
2-4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Kate

Regional Casino: Sheffield's Examination in Public, 6th September 2006.

Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry is one of the largest Chambers in the UK and the leading business support and representation organisation in Yorkshire and Humberside. We are a leading partner in the economic development of both the city of Sheffield and the city region.

We provide advice for business start-ups through our enterprise agency and strategic guidance for businesses trading internationally through the South Yorkshire International Trade Centre and our membership penetration rate (21%) is higher than most comparable Chambers of Commerce.

I am therefore confident that we are uniquely able to represent the voice of Sheffield's business and would ask that I be invited to be invited to speak at the Examination in Public, 6th September

In March 2006, we sponsored a business breakfast for our members to hear about the opportunities that will result from a regional casino. Following the event, 72% of those who attended pledged their support for the city's bid to host a regional casino. The Chamber therefore wholeheartedly supports the case for Sheffield.

There are a number of areas where I feel the Chamber would have a key role to play in ensuring the opportunities of a regional casino are maximised:

- Proactive awareness raising and market readiness training for our members to ensure they are informed and prepared for new business opportunities that will result from the regional casino and its supply chains

- Brokering and supporting packages that promote Sheffield's overall unique destination offer – a national park, excellent theatres, top hotels complemented by a regional casino.

Sheffield has undergone massive economic revival and restructuring in recent years following the demise of traditional industries. Whilst there remains much to be achieved, I am confident that the genuine collaboration between business interests and the City Council will mean that a regional casino in Sheffield will not only bring about direct economic benefit but also stimulate wider growth unrivalled in recent years.

I look forward to discussing these and other issues with you on 6th September

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. H. Tomlinson', with a long, sweeping underline.

Nigel Tomlinson
Chief Executive
Sheffield Chamber of Commerce & Industry