

South East Sheffield

Primary Care Trust



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Ms Valerie Curtis
Head of the Casino Advisory Panel
Secretariat
C/O DCMS, 2-4 Cockspur Street
LONDON SW1Y 5DH

Dear Ms Curtis,

RE: Examination in Public of Sheffield's application for a Regional Casino

I am writing to request the opportunity to participate in the round table discussion of the Council's application for the licence for the first Regional Casino due to be held on the 6th September 2006.

As Director of Public Health for South East Sheffield PCT in whose area this facility would be situated, but speaking on behalf of the whole Sheffield Health Community, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the potential health consequences of the proposed development and how Sheffield would seek to maximise the benefits and mitigate any negative impacts on health.

The Sheffield Health Community is an active member of the Sheffield First partnership and has been fully involved in the Casino Task Group. The Public Health Community is very aware of the inter relationship between impacts on the Economy and the health of the population and in particular the positive effects regeneration can have in boosting disposable income with subsequent positive impacts on health.

We are however conscious that there would be a number of demands placed on the health service by this development and have already started to consider how these might be addressed. In particular the likely increase in problem gambling for which there are currently no dedicated services in Sheffield and the possible longer-term consequences of further traffic congestion in the city. The latter may have a number of health effects including worsening air quality, which is associated with respiratory and cardiovascular disease.

In addition it will also fall to us, in conjunction with the City Council, to monitor both the health and social impacts of the development, which is clearly a crucial part of such a pilot.

I think the Public Health Communities experience in such matters puts us in a good place to contribute to the round table discussion to ensure that the potential health impacts, both positive and negative, from the casino are fully taken account of by the Casino Advisory Panel in making its decision.

Yours sincerely

Frances Cunliffe

Frances Cuning
Director of Public Health