



11 October 2006

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

Dear Ms Rounce

Thank you for your email of 20 September to Nigel Tomlinson, C.E.O. of Sheffield Chamber of Commerce & Industry, with details of a submission by Councillor Jillian Creasy on behalf of Mr Ken Torres, for consideration by the Casino Advisory Panel.

In view of the contents of this submission, we believe it is imperative that the Chamber of Commerce responds, sets the record straight and highlights the factual inaccuracy of Mr Torres' statement.

Firstly, Mr Torres only raised the issue of the Chamber's response to a regional casino bid at a Chamber Council meeting in May of this year. It was explained to him that the Chamber's support for such a project was based on the fact that all three prospective operators had addressed Chamber members and there had been no dissenting comments or statements either during or subsequent to those presentations.

Mr Torres also claims that it was at the meeting in May that he requested a referendum of the membership on the issue and that his request was subsequently removed or "censored" from the minutes of the meeting. We have discussed this allegation with Chamber Council and not one member has any recollection of such a statement or request. Furthermore, at a Chamber Council meeting in July, the members present unanimously agreed to support the City Council and the Chamber's role in this project and tasked the Chief Executive with giving evidence to the panel to support the business case for a regional casino in Sheffield.

In conclusion, we can categorically state that at no time have minutes of Chamber Council meetings been "censored", an allegation we take very seriously and which both the Chamber's Board and Council robustly deny. In addition, we must state that the Chamber has not received one item of correspondence from its members which opposes our support for such a project. We would therefore be grateful if you would forward this correspondence to the Casino Advisory Panel.

Yours sincerely

Paul Jagger, MBE
President

Nick Williams, TD DL
Chairman – Chamber Council

Chamber Patrons

