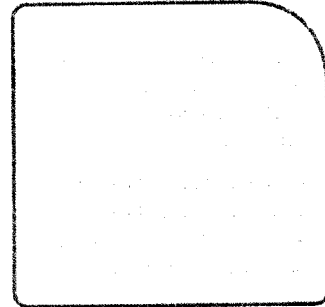


28 June 2006

Jane Bransby  
Casino Advisory Panel  
Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London  
SW1Y 5DH



Dear Jane

**CASINO ADVISORY PANEL FURTHER CONSULTATION: RESPONSE OF ONE NORTHEAST AND NORTH EAST ASSEMBLY**

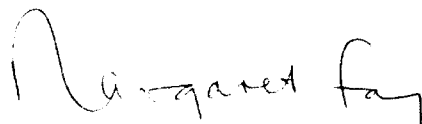
Please find enclosed the response to the call for further consultation by the Casino Advisory Panel, which has been prepared jointly by One NorthEast and the North East Assembly in the capacity of Regional Development Agency and Regional Planning Body respectively. The response has been formally endorsed by the North East Assembly at the meeting of the Development Board on 28 June 2006.

In making this response we are of course only commenting on the proposals which were short listed by the panel and we are aware that other proposals were made from the region which did not progress at this stage. We believe that in due course there may be a case for looking again at Sunderland and giving them the opportunity to put forward any further evidence.

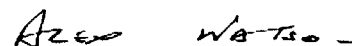
In preparing this joint response it has been evident that both the Agency and the Assembly along with other regional and sub-regional stakeholders welcome the inclusion of Newcastle in the shortlist for the regional casino and Middlesbrough and South Tyneside among the authorities that will be considered for licences to run large and small casinos. The consensus and joint working between One NorthEast and the Assembly is further evidence of the support for carefully located and regulated casino development in the region.

I trust this information will be of use to the Panel in making its assessment of the proposals. One NorthEast and the North East Assembly look forward to contributing to the process as directed by the Casino Advisory Panel.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Fay  
Chairman, One NorthEast



Alex Watson  
Chairman, North East Assembly

**NORTH EAST  
ASSEMBLY**