



South West of England
Regional Development Agency

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

5 January 2006

Dear Ms Bransby

Re: Gambling Act

Thank you for your letter regarding the Gambling Act and in particular the proposals for the planned provision of Casinos in the country.

The proposals are interesting and the arguments you put forward for the 'regional' casino in terms of its potential as a major regenerative tool are compelling. Is there any chance of an increase in the number of regional casinos to be allowed during the initial pilot announced by the Government from one, back closer to the eight originally proposed?

With regard to the South West of England, we have already been notified of interest from Bristol, Torbay, Bournemouth and Bath & North East Somerset for casino development. Bristol has stipulated interest in a 'large' casino, whilst Bath & N.E. Somerset has favoured a 'small' development.

We recognise it is for the Regional Spatial Strategy to identify suitable locations, broadly, for 'regional' casinos. The RSS is evolving rapidly in the South West, but it seems locations for 'regional' casinos will be determined by the ability of those casinos to meet a number of criteria. For example, the ability to support the tourism offer of regionally significant cities and towns without undermining the economic viability of other tourism resorts. The ability of major casinos to assist in the physical, social and economic regeneration of cities and major towns in the region is also likely to be a critical factor.

Yours sincerely

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