



SOUTH WEST
Regional Assembly

Bryony Howden
Chief Executive

Deodar House
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Taunton
Somerset
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Jane Bransbury / Valerie Curtis
Secretary to the Casino Advisory Panel
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2 - 4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

31st July 2006

Dear Mrs Bransby,

South West Regional Assembly Views on Casino Bids in the South West

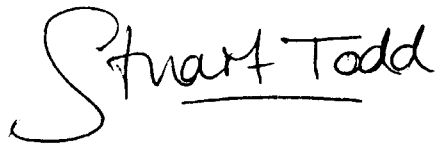
Thank you for giving the South West Regional Assembly the opportunity to provide further information, data and views on the bids made for casinos in the South West in Bath and North East Somerset, Bournemouth, Restormel and Torbay. As discussed, this response is submitted after your initial deadline of 28th June, given that the Assembly did not receive your email communication inviting comments by this date.

You may be aware that the Assembly was invited to provide views on the proposals for Torbay and Bournemouth before those bids were submitted. I attach these responses for your information. Since submission of the bids, the Assembly has received copies of the bids from Bournemouth, Torbay, Restormel and Bath and North East Somerset Councils.

The Assembly has not undertaken any specific research on assessing the implications of the bids or issues related to development of further casinos in the region. The Assembly is therefore not in a position to be able to provide detailed responses to the bids made. However, the Assembly has an agreed policy position on large and regional casinos in the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which has been submitted to the Secretary of State and which is currently undergoing formal consultation. I have attached the extract from the draft RSS for your information. The RSS policy was informed by the overall spatial strategy for the RSS and was developed to provide a spatial planning framework and criteria against which proposals should be tested.

If I can be of further assistance as the bids are examined further, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Todd". The letter "S" is large and loops around the first part of the name. The name "Stuart Todd" is written in a cursive style, with a horizontal line underlining the word "Todd".

Stuart Todd
Regional Policy Manager
Tel: 01823 425264
Email: stuart.todd@southwest-ra.gov.uk

Enc.

Extract on casinos taken from draft RSS

8.6 Casinos

8.6.1 Further casinos may be permitted under the Gambling Act 2005. The Draft RSS recognises that the Government is exploring (through the independent Casino Advisory Panel) the role of, and possible locations for, 17 casinos nationally (one regional at 5,000 m², eight large at 1,500 m² and eight small at 750 m²). Regional and large casinos could offer a high profile visitor experience and serve to support and further develop the region's tourism 'product' and may also offer very significant opportunities to assist regeneration in appropriate locations. However, recognising that there could be both positive and negative impacts of such facilities, it is clear that even large casinos should be located only where locations have been identified based on an assessment and full understanding of the impact on the settlement/community and sub-region concerned.

8.6.2 Whilst it is unlikely that the South West will be the first choice for location of the first Regional Casino, it is clear that several local authorities in the region are likely to wish to 'bid' for a large casino. Should one or more Regional Casinos be allocated to any named settlement in the Draft RSS, the following criteria should be followed when considering their location.

CA1 Regional and Large Casinos Regional and large casinos should only be developed in locations where:

- **They support and extend the range of attractions in existing major regional tourism destinations named as SSCTs (see Development Policy A), and/or**
- **They assist regeneration measures in a location named in Section 4, which will not threaten the economic viability of established tourist resorts in the immediate catchment and where an adequate labour supply can be provided**
- **They offer large scale and appropriate public transport access**
- **Any negative social impact can be minimised, and**
- **Benefits for regeneration and the local economy can be identified**

Responses to Torbay and Bournemouth requests for information

Mr Steve Garrett
Bournemouth Borough Council
Town Hall
Bourne Avenue
Bournemouth
Dorset
BH2 6DY

28th March, 2006

Dear Mr Garrett

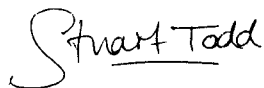
Bournemouth Borough Council Casino Bid

Thank you for your letter of 9th February 2006, received in this office on 13th February, in which you have requested the Regional Assembly's policy position on Bournemouth Borough Council's casino bid. Further to your request, please find attached an extract from the emerging RSS which is the Assembly's current policy position on development of new casinos in the region.

You will be aware, no doubt, of the current stage of the emerging RSS. The RSS will be submitted to the Secretary of State on 31st March 2006. The latest version of the RSS (version 4.1) can be viewed on the Assembly's website at www.southwest-ra.gov.uk from the Planning – RSS page.

If you need to discuss the Council's bid specifically or any issues arising from the attached extract or the RSS itself, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Todd
Regional Policy Manager (Implementation and Integration)

Direct Tel: 01823 425264
E-mail: stuart.todd@southwest-ra.gov.uk

cc. Malcolm Farr, Bournemouth Borough Council
Regional Assembly Leaders

Mr Alan Denby
Torbay Development Agency
Tourist Centre
Vaughan Parade
Torquay

TQ2 5JG

28th March, 2006

Dear Mr Denby

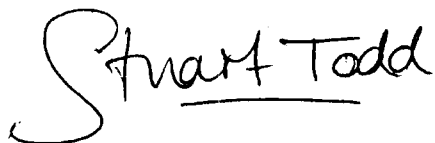
Torbay Borough Council Casino Bid

Further to our discussions over the telephone and your email of 23rd March 2006 in which you have requested the Regional Assembly's policy position on Torbay Borough Council's casino bid, please find attached an extract from the emerging RSS which is the Assembly's current policy position on development of new casinos in the region.

You may be aware that the emerging RSS will be submitted to the Secretary of State on 31st March 2006. The latest version of the RSS (version 4.1) can be viewed on the Assembly's website at www.southwest-ra.gov.uk from the Planning – RSS page.

If you need to discuss the Council's bid specifically or any issues arising from the attached extract or the RSS itself, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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Stuart Todd
Regional Policy Manager (Implementation and Integration)

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cc. Regional Assembly Leaders