



*Malcolm Smith*  
Director of Environment  
and Regeneration

**WORKING FOR YOU**

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Draft Gambling Bill Consultation  
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**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

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If telephoning ask for: Mr D Grant

Our ref: ENT/GAMING/DG

Date: 29th January 2004

Dear Sir/Madam

**DRAFT GAMBLING BILL CONSULTATION**

This Council's Development Control & Licensing Committee have directed, after consideration of the proposals contained in the consultation documents, that formal responses be sent to you in relation to 2 issues that give cause for concern. The issues are as follow:

**1. INCOME RECOVERY**

Fees set by the Government in relation to any application to this Council for licences or permits, including applications for renewal, variation, transfer, and review etc, must be set a level to: -

A. Cover 100% of the costs incurred by the Council in relation to the proposed licensing regime. Such costs to include:

- staffing, administration and ancillary costs,
- training, inspections, investigations, enforcement and prosecutions costs,
- Licensing Committee costs,
- the cost of office accommodation, computer and communication systems, furniture, stationary etc costs.

B. Enable the Council to set up and maintain an effective licensing regime.

Without such an income recovery system being committed to and implemented by the Government, this Council would have to strongly oppose any change to the existing legislation

**2. PERMITS FOR CATEGORY D GAMING MACHINES**

Under the present legislation, this Council is the Authority responsible for granting permits for gaming machines in premises which are not licensed under the Licensing Act 1964. Under Paragraph 3, Schedule 9 of the Gaming Act 1968 we have a policy of only granting permits for 'adult' amusement arcades which are wholly or mainly used for the provision of amusements with prizes. The policy, with regard to other premises (e.g. catering premises providing 'take-away' refreshments, supermarkets, cinemas, launderettes, hairdressers, dry cleaning establishments etc)

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is not to grant permits, subject to consideration of the individual circumstances of each application.

The reasons for the policy are due to environmental and social issues (including anti-social behaviour and the protection of children and vulnerable persons).

Whilst we have no objections to the proposals with regard to 'adult' gaming and gambling (including lifting the restrictions on casino's, which we welcome); it is essential that we be able to maintain our existing policy with regard to Category D machines.

It is not implicit in the consultation documentation whether we will be able to set a similar policy with regard to category D gaming machines. Therefore we wish to make a strong representation that legislative powers be included in the proposals giving Councils the power to set an identical policy to the one we already have. If such a power is not included, then this Council would strongly oppose any change to the existing legislation.

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter. If you require any clarification or further information on the matters raised in this letter please contact Mr D. Grant (Licensing & Registration Manager) tel 020 8430 6512.

Yours faithfully,



Steve Miller

Head of Environmental & Commercial Standards