

Environmental Health

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**OXFORD
CITY
COUNCIL**

Draft Gambling Bill Consultation
Gambling and National Lottery Licensing
Division
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

12 January 2004
Our ref: AP//Gambling Bill
Your ref:

Dear Sir [REDACTED]

Draft Gambling Bill Consultation

The Council's Licensing Committee considered the consultation document at a meeting on 18th December 2003 and resolved to make the following response on behalf of the Council.

- (a) That there should be maximum discretion for local authorities to set opening hours for premises, and that "default" opening hours were not favoured;
- (b) That any training requirement for members should be appropriate to the purpose and, if mandatory, should not be so onerous that it deterred members from serving upon licensing casework committees or being involved in licensing work;
- (c) That the full cost of administering and enforcing the gambling legislation should be recoverable by local authorities, through licence fees or otherwise;
- (d) That a new Planning Use Class should be introduced, to include specifically premises used for gambling;
- (e) That the implementation of the gambling legislation and of the liquor licensing legislation should not coincide such as to place undue demands upon local authority resources;
- (f) That the proposed new National Gambling Regulator should be truly independent (of the gambling industry);
- (g) The apparent focus in the legislation on large casinos was unwelcome;
- (h) Local authorities should be permitted to make representations about an applicant's suitability to conduct gambling;
- (i) Local authorities should have the power, in appropriate circumstances, to initiate a blanket ban on all or particular types of gambling premises in their area;

Yours faithfully

Tony Payne
Principal Environmental Health Officer
Environmental Health

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