

Reappointment of Keith Elliott as a member of the Horserace Betting Levy Board

Richard Caborn, the Minister for Sport has reappointed Keith Elliot as a member of the Horserace Betting Levy Board from 1 August 2003 until 31 December 2005.

Announcing the reappointment, Richard Caborn, said:

"I am delighted that Keith Elliott has agreed to serve a third term as a member of the Horserace Betting Levy Board. As one of three independent Government appointee members on the board he has played a valuable role in support of the racing customer.

"He has made a significant contribution to the work of the Levy Board over the past six years.

"I believe his continued presence on the Levy Board will prove invaluable in what is sure to be a difficult period for the Levy Board as the Government moves towards the Board's abolition.

Keith Elliott was first appointed to his post on 1 April 1997. He currently fulfils the role as a member for which he receives £15,860 for 1-2 days work a week. At the end of his present term on 31 July 2003, he will have served 6 years in post. This would usually require the appointment of a new member. However, the Office of the Commission for Public Appointments (OCPA) has given its agreement to an exceptional extension until 31 December 2005.

He has not undertaken any political activity in the last five years.

Notes for Editors

The Horserace Betting Levy Board (Levy Board) is a statutory body, which operates in accordance with the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 (as amended). It is a non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The Levy Board was established, by the Betting Levy Act 1961, to assess and collect a levy on bets on horseraces and distribute it for purposes conducive to the improvement of breeds of horses; the advancement or encouragement of veterinary science and education; and the improvement of horseracing. It was introduced as a compensation mechanism for the likely loss of income to racing following the legalisation of off-course bookmaking.

The Levy Board comprises three members appointed by the Secretary of State (including the Chairman); three members appointed by the British Horseracing Board; and ex-officio, the Chairmen of the Horserace Totalisator Board and the Bookmakers' Committee.

Following a quinquennial review of the Levy Board, it was announced on 2 March 2000 that the Government had decided to abolish the levy system and the Board itself. Primary legislation is required to achieve this and it is intended that this will form part of the Gambling Bill in 2003/4 or alternatively as a separate joint Tote / Levy Bill if Parliamentary time is limited.