

Our Ref: CMS 136849/mk

Rick Parry



department for  
culture, media  
and sport

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Dear Rick

### Sports Betting Integrity Panel Report

I am very grateful for the work you and the Panel members have done to produce the comprehensive Report on sports betting integrity. The Report drew on the considerable expertise of the Panel's membership which comprised key representatives of sport, the betting industry, the Gambling Commission, the police, the legal profession and fans and players federations.

I understand the issues were keenly debated and that much thought and deliberation went into drafting the Report to ensure it resulted in an agreed and workable strategy that would make a real improvement on how sports betting integrity is protected. I have now considered the recommendations contained in the Report and I confirm that I endorse the proposals in full.

Of course the Report is just the first stage and now work must begin to take forward the recommendations. I recognise that it is important that the recommendations as a whole are implemented for this to be as effective as possible and all partners have important roles to play. I strongly encourage all the parties to work together as appropriate to implement the proposals.

### Recommendations for Government (1.1 - 1.2)

The Government accepts recommendations 1.1 and 1.2. and will explore ways to review both issues. Along with the Gambling Commission we continue to monitor the operation of the Gambling Act and recognise the importance of both clarity in the definition of cheating and sufficiency of powers at the Commissions disposal.

**Recommendations for sport, the betting industry and the Gambling Commission and other statutory authorities (1.3 – 1.17)**

We urge sport to implement the proposals outlined in recommendations 1.3 – 1.9. In particular they should support and utilise the expertise and advice of the sports betting group once it is established. Government strongly agrees that education of players and participants is a vital component in the battle against sports betting corruption.

Government welcomes the two initiatives from the betting industry (recommendations 1.10 – 1.11), in conjunction with the Gambling Commission, to strengthen the integrity regime.

The recommendations 1.12 – 1.17 on the enhancement of the Commission's intelligence capability by the establishment of a Sports Betting and Intelligence Unit (SBIU) are a critical piece of the package and ones which the Commission has already welcomed and is keen to implement.

**Funding**

When I established this Panel I particularly noted the need for the recommendations to be practical and proportionate. I am pleased that the recommendations meet those criteria. We will encourage partners to work together to establish whether additional resources will be necessary to implement these proposals. Should additional resources be necessary Government's view is that this should be provided by sport and the betting industry as those who stand to benefit most from the new arrangements. We stand ready to facilitate any discussions that may be necessary regarding the funding of the recommendations. The Gambling Commission have confirmed that they can make a start on the new SBIU within their existing budget.

Finally, I would like to put on record my thanks to you and the rest of the Panel members for producing the Report. As I have said before, there is no place in sport for cheating of any kind and we must make sure we are all doing everything we can to protect its' integrity. I believe these measures as outlined in the Report will help to ensure that happens.

Yours



GERRY SUTCLIFFE