

INDEPENDENT LICENSING FEES REVIEW PANEL MEETING

THURSDAY 23 MARCH 2006

Attendees

Sir Les Elton (Chair)

Clive Allen

Duncan Bowdler

Francis Patton

Paul Woods

Wendy Shales : Secretariat

Tim Crowhurst : Secretariat

Apologies: Brian Wilson

Key Issues and Action Points

1. Licensing Authority Income and Costs

- There was an extensive discussion about Phase 1 & 2 data sets and the interpretation of the data. Panel considered that further analysis and weighting was required by e.g. population, numbers of licences and cost per licence etc. [There was also a need for further clarification of outlier authorities, by deficits and surpluses.]
- For London, further analysis of inner and outer London boroughs was required. It was agreed that LE would write to the Association of London Government to encourage the outstanding data returns from some boroughs.
- A Panel sub-group would meet w/c 10 April to trawl through the further information and data collated.

2. County Council responsible authority costs

- Panel noted that this was an issue that was different for two-tier authorities. It was noted that some county councils had responded to the data-collection exercise (because the data collection returns had been circulated erroneously on the Panel's behalf to some two-tier authorities). However, Panel would not request further information from those authorities at this stage.

3. Future Panel Visits

- It was agreed that the Panel would visit a number of authorities with deficits and surpluses and mid-range authorities in order to fully understand the position for licensing authorities, to discuss in more detail the information they had provided,

and to explore problems that had arisen and the choices they had made in implementing the new regime.

- A selection of authorities were initially identified from the data available (including Welsh authorities). It was also agreed to visit the Welsh Assembly. Visits would take place at the end of April / beginning of May. LE would write to the identified authorities beforehand in order to set the visits in train. Visits would be divided up between Panel members; LE would attend every meeting where possible.

4. Other areas of activity and progress of Panel sub-groups

- Update reports were provided on the other 8 areas of work that the Panel are considering and there was a general discussion about progress, including responses to a Panel consultation on licensing authority enforcement activity, Temporary Event Notices and Circuses.

5. AoB

- Date of next full Panel meeting is Monday 24 April.