

July 2008

Horserace Totalisator Board: reappointment of Leonard Cowburn as a Non-executive Director

Gerry Sutcliffe, Minister for Sport, has reappointed Leonard Cowburn as a Non-executive Director of the Horserace Totalisator Board (known as the Tote). His second term of appointment runs from 1 July 2008 until such time as the Tote is removed from Government, or otherwise for up to three years.

Leonard Cowburn

Now retired, Mr Cowburn has held Deputy Chairman roles at both William Hill and Stanley Leisure. He was a founder Director of Satellite Information Services (SIS), has been a member of the Levy Board and is a past Chairman of the Bookmakers Committee. He was Chairman of 'Go Racing in Yorkshire' until 2005.

Background

The Tote is a statutory authority, which was first established as the Racecourse Betting Control Board by the Racecourse Betting Act 1928. It was founded to enable racegoers to bet by means of a totalisator (i.e. horserace pool betting) for which it has the exclusive licence; and to raise money for racing. It was given its present official name (the Horserace Totalisator Board) in 1961, but has always been known as the Tote. Since 1972, the Tote has also had the authority to conduct a fixed odds betting business and now competes widely in the bookmaking market.

The Tote is a diverse and modern betting business which operates on racecourses, through a chain of over 540 retail betting offices, and via telephone and internet divisions. The Tote's exclusive horserace pool betting operation is available in over 8,000 of the UK's 9,000 betting shops and at each of the UK's 59 racecourses.

The Government announced its intention on 5 March 2008 to end a period of exclusive negotiation with Racing and to appoint advisers to undertake a strategic review of sale options with a view to placing the Tote on the market at the earliest opportunity consistent with maximizing the return to the taxpayer.

Appointments to the Tote are made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for political activity (if any declared) to be made public. Mr Cowburn has declared no political activity in the last five years.