

July 2008

## **New Deputy Chair for the Levy Board**

Gerry Sutcliffe, Minister for Sport, has appointed Penny Boys CB as Deputy Chair of the Horserace Betting Levy Board (known as the Levy Board). Her appointment runs from 30 June 2008 until 29 June 2011.

### **Penny Boys**

Ms Boys is a Non-executive Director of the Water Services Regulation Authority. She had been Executive Director of the Office of Fair Trading from 2000-2005, and was previously Chief Executive at the Competition Commission. She is both an enthusiastic racegoer and an experienced regulator. In 2006 Ms Boys was appointed the Independent Member of the Levy Board. She has been appointed to her new role through open competition.

### **Background**

The Levy Board is a statutory body established by the Betting Levy Act 1961 and now operating in accordance with the provisions of the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 (as amended). It is a non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Its role is to assess and collect monetary contributions from bookmakers via a percentage levy on gross profits from betting on British horse races. The Levy Board distributes levy proceeds on projects to improve horseracing and breeds of horses, and to advance equine veterinary science and education.

A group comprised of representatives of the betting and racing industries is currently considering how the Levy process might be modernised. This could result in changes being made to the Board's structure and mechanisms. The Government has undertaken to retain the Levy and the Levy Board until such time as a viable commercial alternative is agreed between the betting and racing industries.

Appointments to the Levy Board are made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and follow the OCPA Code of Practice. All public appointments are made on merit and 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. Ms Boys has declared that she undertook no political activity in the UK in the last five years.