

## PRESS NOTICE

### EXTENDED TERM FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD

The Minister for Sport, Richard Caborn, has extended the term of appointment of Robert Hughes CBE as the Chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board. The extension will run until 30 September 2009.

Richard Caborn said:

"I am very grateful to Robert for agreeing to stay on at the Levy Board, in the light of the Board's extension until 2009. I am delighted that the Board will continue to benefit from his skills, knowledge and expertise as we move towards the Board's abolition."

#### **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 nominated 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. The Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Bill, which was passed in 2004, made provision for this.

Robert Hughes was first appointed to the Chairmanship of the Levy Board on 1 September 1998. It is a remunerated post attracting an annual salary of £55,280 for three days per week. At the end of his present term on 30 September 2006, he will have served 8 years in post. This would usually require the appointment of a new member. However, the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) has given its agreement to an extension until 30 September 2009, in the interests of stability as detailed preparations are made for the abolition of the Levy and the associated transfer of the Board's statutory responsibilities.

From 1984-88 Mr Hughes was Town Clerk and Chief Executive at Great Grimsby Borough Council, and from 1988-98 Chief Executive at Kirklees Metropolitan Council. He was awarded his CBE in 1999. He has not undertaken any significant political activity in the last five years.