

Horserace Betting Levy Board

Sir John Robb has been reappointed as a member of the Horserace Betting Levy Board with effect from 1 January 2003 for a period of three years.

Sir John Robb was first appointed to his post on 1 January 1993. He currently fulfils the role of Deputy Chairman (this is not a statutory post) for which he receives £20,350 for 1-2 days work a week. At the end of his present term on 31 December 2002, he will have served 10 years in post. This would usually require the appointment of a new member. However, the Office of the Commission for Public Appointments (OCPA) has given its agreement to an exceptional extension for a further three-year period. He holds no other public appointments and he has not undertaken any political activity in the last five years.

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 appointed 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. Primary legislation is required to achieve this and it is intended that this will form the part of the Gambling Bill in 2003/4.