

APPOINTMENTS OF THE HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD EXTENDED UNTIL ABOLITION

The Minister for Sport, Richard Caborn, has extended the terms of appointment of the Government appointed members of the Horserace Betting Levy Board until the Board is wound up in September 2006 or later.

The Government appointed members are Robert Hughes CBE, Chairman, Sir John Robb, Deputy Chair and Keith Elliott, Member.

Richard Caborn said:

"I am delighted that the three Government appointed members have agreed to stay on at the Levy Board until its abolition. It is essential that the skills, knowledge and expertise that they possess be retained to the benefit of the Government and racing as we move towards the Board's abolition. This will mean resolving some complex issues surrounding the disposal of its assets, pension provisions and redundancy packages, on which their leadership will prove invaluable. I know that the Government can rely on Rob Hughes and his team to maintain their high levels of commitment as we move towards closure."

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 increased from £79.9m in 2002/03 to £108m in 2003/04.

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. This will take effect once the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Bill has become law.

Rob Hughes was appointed in 1998 and reaches the end of his third term in December 2005. Sir John Robb was appointed in 1996 and reaches the end of his fourth term in December 2005. Keith Elliot was appointed in 1997 and reaches the

end of his third term in December 2005. These exceptional extensions of appointment have been agreed with the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The posts are remunerated at £51,350 for the Chair, £21,075 for the Deputy Chair and £15,860 for the Member. None of the Members have undertaken any political activity in the last five years.