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7th April 2009

Betting Exchanges and the Levy

I wanted to update you on a matter which you are aware that the Levy Board is considering.

As you know, concerns have been expressed that some people laying bets through the exchanges are, in fact, acting as bookmakers and hence should be paying the levy based on the definition of "bookmaker" in section 55 of the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963. Once information has been received, we will consider the best way of addressing it, and we anticipate involving DCMS and, in particular, the Gambling Commission in view of its statutory duties and powers. Indeed, DCMS and the Gambling Commission are, of course, already considering the issue.

As you will appreciate, in view of our statutory role in relation to the levy, we take very seriously any concern that there may be individuals who should be paying the levy but are not doing so.

Yours sincerely

Douglas Erskine-Crum
Chief Executive

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Mrs Jenny Williams, Chief Executive, Gambling Commission

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