

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
14 November 2005

Gambling Commission to move to Victoria Square House, Birmingham

Victoria Square House in Birmingham is to be the new head office for the Gambling Commission, the newly-established independent watchdog for gambling in Britain.

Announcing its new location, Commission Chief Executive Jenny Williams said: "We're delighted to have secured Victoria Square House for our new headquarters. It's a stunning building in the very heart of the city.

"Birmingham has a thriving professional services sector, a substantial labour pool and a central location. We are amongst the first of a number of public sector bodies moving out of the capital as a result of the government's Lyons review, and Birmingham is the obvious choice of location.

"This is a very exciting time for the Gambling Commission. We are taking on significant new responsibilities under the Gambling Act 2005 and will be growing from a pool of 70 staff to over 250 people by the time we are fully up and running, including head office in Birmingham and field staff spread across the country. We have begun a major recruitment campaign, and believe our new location will us help attract the best candidates."

The Gambling Commission was formally launched on 1 October 2005. It is currently located in Central London, where it has taken over the offices in of its predecessor body, the Gaming Board for Great Britain. The move to Birmingham will begin in January 2006, and all functions and staff will have moved by June.

The Gambling Commission has taken over the role previously played by the Gaming Board for Great Britain in regulating casinos, bingo, gaming machines and lotteries, and will also have responsibility for regulating betting and remote gambling. It will set new conditions under which licences are granted to gambling operators and staff and issue new codes of practice, and will have significant new legal powers to monitor the industry and to prosecute illegal gambling. It will also advise central and local government on issues related to gambling.

The Commission's core objectives as a regulator are to keep crime out, to ensure that gambling is conducted fairly and openly, and to protect children and vulnerable people.

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For further information please contact Jo O'Driscoll on 020 7306 6265, email j.odriscoll@gamblingcommission.gov.uk

From mid-2006 the Commission's new address will be:

Gambling Commission
Victoria Square House
Victoria Square
Birmingham B2 4BP

For information on the Lyons review, see http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consultations_and_legislation/lyons/consult_lyons_index.cfm

The Commission's recruitment is being managed by Professional Pre-selection Services, www.ppsworks.com. All posts will be advertised on the Commission's website.

The Gambling Commission regulates gambling in the public interest. It does so by keeping crime out of gambling, by ensuring that gambling is conducted fairly and openly, and by protecting children and vulnerable people. The Commission also provides independent advice to government on gambling in Britain.

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk