News Release

14 June 2004

The Rank Group Plc

DCMS Response to Joint Committee Report on the Draft Gambling Bill

The Rank Group Plc ("Rank") has noted the publication today of the detailed response by the Department of Culture Media and Sport ("DCMS") to the report issued by the Joint Committee on the Draft Gambling Bill which was issued on 7 April 2004.

Today's announcement is a further step towards updating the regulatory framework for UK gaming. In particular, the comments from Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, that she hopes to introduce a Gambling Bill as soon as possible, "hopefully later this year", are very encouraging.

The response from DCMS is more restrictive in certain areas than originally envisaged, in particular in relation to numbers and categories of slot machines. However, Rank remains confident that the overall impact of the new legislation, which will include the abolition of the 24-hour rule and the introduction of casino advertising, will be significant.

Commenting on the DCMS response, Mike Smith Chief Executive said:

"Today's response is another step towards the modernisation of the UK gaming regulations. The proposed timetable for introduction of the new Bill is particularly encouraging.

Rank's strategy is unchanged. The Group continues to invest in its UK gaming activities through new licences, relocations and renovations of existing premises. With 155 premises and a further two opening before the end of 2004, the Group already has over 3.3m square feet of licensed gaming premises and is well placed to take advantage of the new law, as and when it is introduced."

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