

September 2010

Gambling Commission: Jenny Williams reappointed as a Commissioner

John Penrose has reappointed Jenny Williams, the Chief Executive of the Gambling Commission, as a Commissioner for a period not exceeding five years from 1 October 2010.

Biographical Notes

Jenny Williams was appointed as the Chief Executive of the Gaming Board for Great Britain in November 2004, and played an important part in its transformation into the Gambling Commission, becoming its Chief Executive upon its inception in October 2005. Prior to her appointment to the Gaming Board, Ms Williams was a Director General at the Lord Chancellor's Department (now the Department for Justice). She had previously held a variety of policy and project management posts as a senior civil servant in the Inland Revenue, the Departments of Environment and Transport and the Home Office. She is a trustee of the homelessness charity Connections at St. Martins, and has previously been a non-executive Director of Northumbrian Water Group plc, the National Campaign for the Arts, and Morley College. She holds no other public appointments.

Background

The Gambling Commission was set up under the Gambling Act 2005 to regulate most commercial gambling in Britain. It is an independent non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and is based in Birmingham. It works with licensing authorities, which are responsible for issuing permits and licences, and sets the rules which licensed operators must follow. The Commission has three strategic licensing objectives: to keep crime out of gambling; to ensure that gambling is conducted fairly and openly; and to protect children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling. It is governed by a Board of eight Commissioners. Ms Williams's role as a Commissioner attracts no remuneration over and above her salary as Chief Executive of the Gambling Commission.

The reappointment process has followed the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments and reappointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for political activity in the United Kingdom in the past five years (if any declared) to be made public. Ms Williams has declared no political activity.