



# The Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers Limited

Association of  
Racecourse Bookmakers

National Association  
of Bookmakers

Rails Bookmakers  
Association



## SELECT COMMITTEE UPDATE FROM DRUMMONDS KIRKWOOD LLP

I am pleased to report that the formal Submission of the Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers, of which you are a member, was delivered by hand and acknowledged by Mr Fox, Clerk to the Select Committee on Friday. The documents were also disseminated by email to the Select Committee.

To comply with the Select Committee guidelines, the FRB Submission with a summary of the overall position, outlining the history pre-1998, the importance of the Sparrow Report and how the NJPC came into existence. From that we moved to the system of sale of pitches and the huge investments made by bookmakers who clearly believed that they were buying their pitches in perpetuity. The Submission then went on to address the consequences of the RCA's threats and the FRB's position as to government involvement in the future.

The moral and legal argument was clear and reinforced by Submissions by individual bookmakers. One was just from someone just starting out in the industry who, invested everything he had; to others who put their life savings and pensions into the acquisition of pitches.

Throughout the process the directors have worked intensely, not only with us but with Jonathan Harvie QC who is very well known in racing circles, and the parliamentary lobbyists, Ranelagh. They have assisted with meetings with the Minister and a prospective meeting with the shadow spokesperson for sport which will occur next week.

There is growing support for the bookmakers' position and it is understood that Submissions favourable to them have been submitted by other parties.

I hope this outline is helpful. I would urge bookmakers who have made individual Submissions (not part of the FRB Submission) to forward them directly to Robin Grossmith at PO Box 42, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 5QL who is collating them on our behalf.

The oral Submissions to the Select Committee will be presented on 13 November. The FRB and those bookmakers selected by the Committee will give evidence on that date. The Hearing is in public and every effort will be made to ensure that the case is well prepared and presented by our Counsel, Jonathan Harvie QC, whose knowledge of racing is encyclopaedic.

Regards,  
TONY LAWSON