



GBG Land Based Responsible Gambling Group Minutes

3 June 2025

Attendees:

Andrea Rushworth (Crown)	Howard Gant (Boomerang)
Andrew Mason (Betsmart Consulting)	Lauren Noble (Buzz Bingo)
Simon Reynolds (Buzz Bingo)	Wayne Forster (Boomerang)
Martin Beard (Novomatic)	Charlotte Meller, GBG
Tracy Baitup (Roadchef)	Steve Sharp, GBG
Caroline Bates (Roadchef)	

Apologies: Brian Jamson, Peter Hannibal

Item 1 Actions from the February 2025 Meeting of the Group

1. The notes were agreed with any actions addressed.

Item 2 Gambling Act Review (GAR) updates

2. DCMS is considering various queries submitted by GC about the casino SIs.
3. Peter and some GBG members are meeting with DCMS officials on 11 June to discuss the forthcoming DCMS consultation on Cat D Stakes and Prizes.
4. DCMS aims to publish one single consultation in the summer with couple of chapters, one on Cat D and one on Bingo.
5. Noted that DCMS officials will be visiting a Buzz Bingo premises on 13 June.
6. The GBG's response to the GMTS consultation has been submitted, which offers to work with GC on piloting staff alerts before any decision is made about progressing with the proposal – which should be sat in LCCP and not in the technical GMTS.
7. Noted that the GC has been undertaking some follow up visits to operators after the Customer Interaction workshops held earlier in the year, with visits to larger operators being largely positive.
8. The Commission has more recently focused on operators with 3 or less sites and indications are that there will be more action taken (similar to the Bradford AGC licence suspension).

Item 3 Negative press – land-based gambling

9. The industry needs to unite to push back on the well-coordinated anti -gambling campaign which is grabbing the attention of the media and politicians.
10. GBG's Board asked for a fact sheet which can be sent to MPs, local councillors (drafted).
11. We are expecting a response from the Minister on the letter to Councillor Butt at Brent Council, as she was a copy recipient.
12. The letter has also been sent to the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee.
13. GBG met with bacta last week to discuss how to work together (and with the other trade bodies) and to keep each other in the loop

Item 4 GBG's Responsible Gambling Charter

14. At its April meeting the GBG's Board agreed to a light touch monitoring process to see how Members were complying with the relevant principles of the Charter.
15. The LBRG agreed that the using a checklist to monitor compliance would give a more detailed approach which added more weight to the process, than just a simple annual statement.
16. Good practice and feedback from the exercise would be shared with all Members.
17. Buzz is already in the process of undertaking a trial run of completing the form and would share feedback. **Action** Other Members of the Group are encouraged to undertake a similar exercise to see what changes are required to the checklist and the Charter itself.
18. **Action CM:** See if Gordon Moody can provide an updated endorsement (and/or put that one second on the front page).

Item 5 LA Activity

19. Very positive feedback from the ARE event for LAs and police in Manchester in April.
20. Noted that LB of Hounslow had written to operators advising of visits in mid-June focusing on LA Policy Statements, Local Risk Assessments and LA Powers.
21. GBG will have one if not 2 speaking slots at the IOL's National Training Conference 26-28 November. **Action:** Contact CM if you would like to be involved.

Meeting dates for 2025 (by Teams) 1100 – 1230

- Tues 9th September
- Tues 2 December