



Institute of Licensing

National Training Conference 2023

The reality of gambling - separating the facts from fiction

The Gambling Business Group



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Fact: Dual regulation is challenging

- “Regulatory responsibilities split across multiple bodies both nationally and locally can also make regulatory delivery more challenging”
- “A lack of clarity over roles and responsibilities can increase the risks of inefficiencies and regulatory gaps”
- “The Gambling Commission produces guidance which local authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to. **However, it has no duty or powers to intervene if a local authority is not fulfilling its regulatory duties under the Gambling Act 2005**”

NAO report “how to deliver effective regulation locally” May 2023



Fiction: Numbers of gambling premises are increasing

(Commission data year ending March 2021)

- **8,625** Licenced Gambling licensed premises in Great Britain
 - March 2017 to March 2021 numbers **decreased by 2,779** (-24%)
- Betting Shops (LBOs) – 6,462 (down from 7863 in March 20)
- Adult Gaming Centres (AGCs) – 1381 (down from 1457 in March 20)
- Casinos – 137 + 7 2005 active licences
- Bingo Clubs & High Street Bingo – 584
- Family Entertainment Centres (FECs) – 191
- Machines in Public Houses & Clubs – est 38,000
- Holiday Parks



FACT : Gambling contributes to your local economy

- Gambling sector pays @£2 billion/year in duties
- Accounted for 0.3% of UK Gross Added Value (GVA) in 2019
- Employed @ 98,000 people in Great Britain in 2019
- Gambling contributes to sport, advertising and racing
- It contributes to tourism esp in coastal areas, whilst high end casinos attract wealthy overseas visitors who spend in other sectors
- Large society lotteries generated over £400m in 2020/21 for charities and good causes such as sports clubs

(DCMS White Paper April 23)



Fiction: Gambling premises are a source of ASB

According to the Commission's Reg Returns Between 2016 -2021

- Less Than **3** Customer Complaints Per Land-Based Gambling **Venue A Year**
- **1** Incident Requiring Police Support, Per Venue, Every **3** Years
- Several £100,000s invested in each venue to ensure have a locked door policy, locked toilets (and toilet/washroom design), high-definition CCTV (including sound recording) , remote security surveillance
- Police use CCTV footage from gambling premises to help with incidents outside the premises (Eg AGC in Haringey)
- StaffGuard



Crime Mapping – WalkSafe

- Provides an overview of crime reported at Site A, London, postcode. This location opened January 2021.
- Police crime data (for all types of crime) has been collated between January 2020 – January 2023, and a radius of 100m and 200m surrounding the site. (accurate as of March 2023)
- Data has been analysed to compare 2020 to 2021 data, **6 months prior to opening** (July 2020 – December 2020) **and 6 months after opening** (February 2021 – July 2021), and **3 months prior to opening** (October 2020 – December 2020) **compared to 3 months after opening** (February 2021 - April 2021)
- Data has been downloaded through open source data available under the Open Government Licence v3.0, which provides data about crime and policing in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



Crime Reporting Summary: Crime data (source Walksafe)



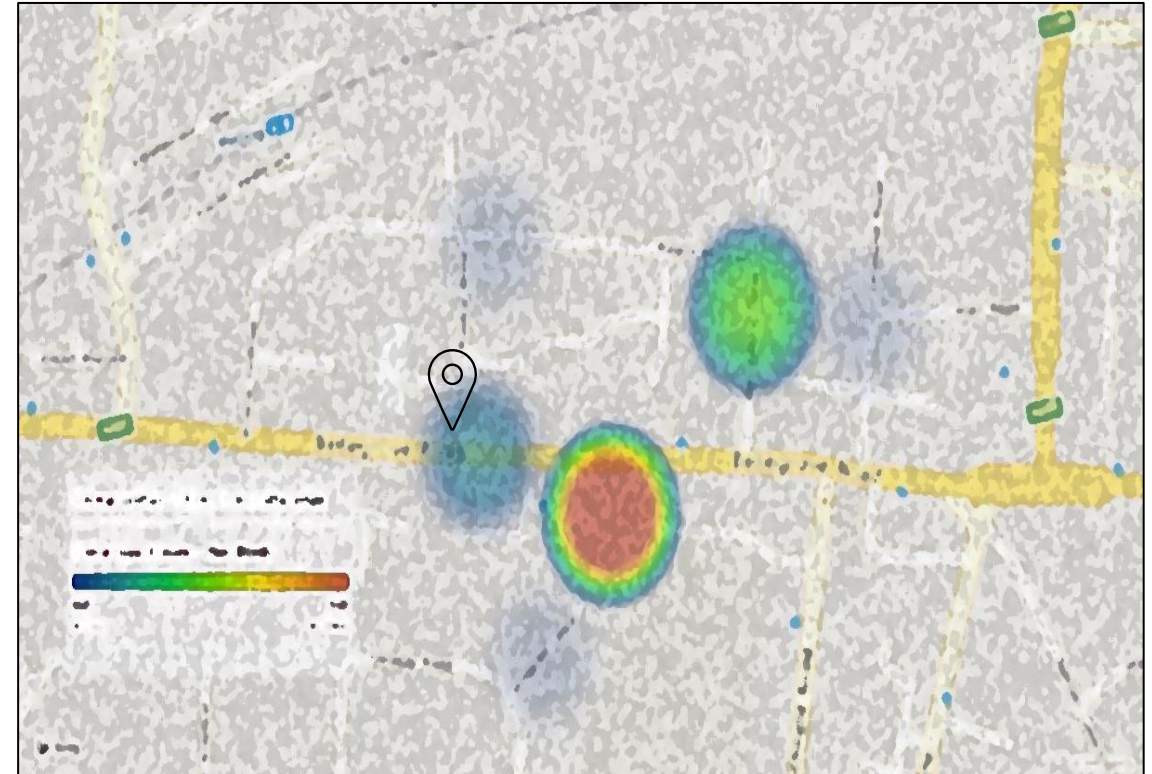
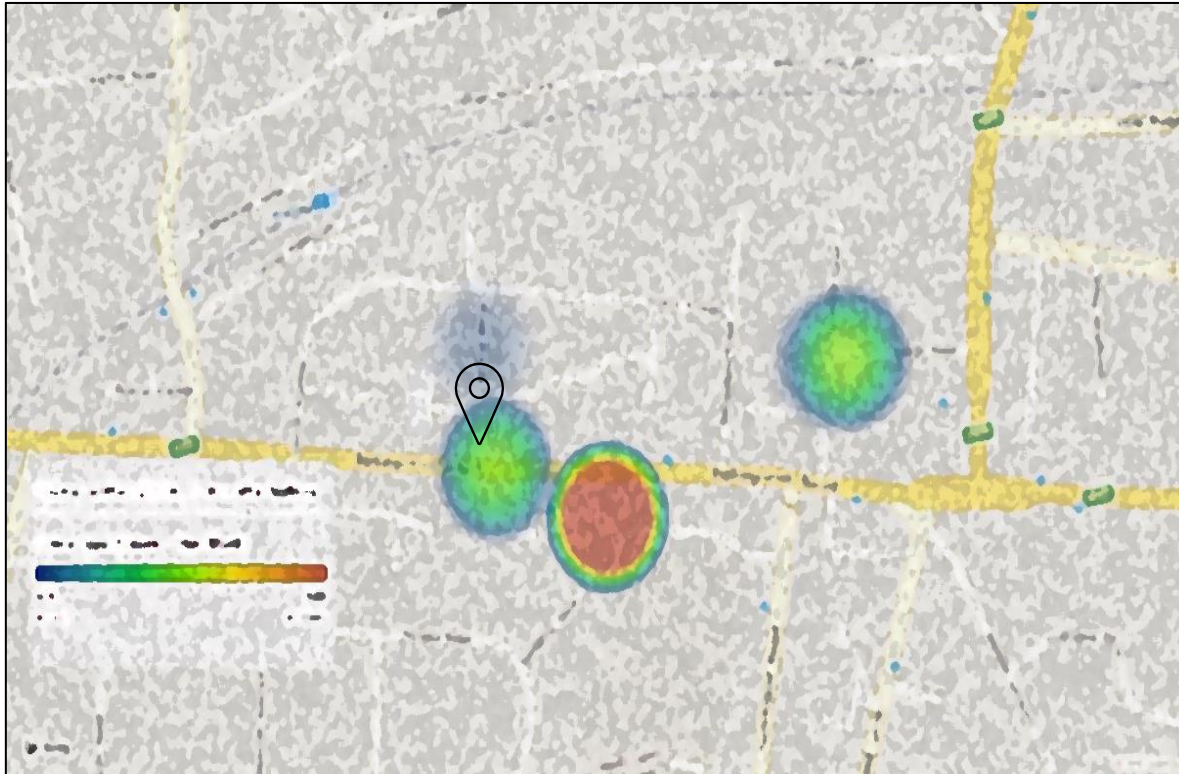
Are the Crime Types showing % changes for each of these radius distance from the site: 200m and 100m for 3 months and 6 months either side of opening, in addition to 2020 data compared to 2021 data.


Crime Types	200m	100m	200m	100m	200m	100m
	% change 3 months	% change 3 months	% change 6 months	% change 6 months	% change Year 2020 to 2021	% change Year 2020 to 2021
Anti-social behaviour	43%	14%	-35%	-40%	-26%	-33%
Bicycle theft	No Offences	No Offences	No Offences	No Offences	Increase of 1	No Offences
Burglary	-50%	-50%	0%	-50%	-25%	-33%
Criminal damage and arson	-100%	-100%	-33%	-100%	0%	0%
Drugs	-100%	No Offences	-100%	No Offences	25%	Increase of 3
Other crime	-100%	No Offences	-100%	No Offences	0%	Increase of 2
Other theft	-75%	-100%	-75%	-100%	0%	0%
Possession of weapons	No Offences	No Offences	Increase of 1	Increase of 1	0%	0%
Public order	300%	300%	500%	500%	114%	600%
Robbery	-100%	No Offences	-100%	No Offences	-100%	-100%
Shoplifting	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-20%	-20%
Theft from the person	No Offences	No Offences	No Offences	No Offences	No Offences	No Offences
Vehicle crime	Increase of 1	Increase of 1	Increase of 1	Increase of 1	400%	100%
Violence and sexual offences	-27%	-63%	-7%	-27%	-7%	0%
Grand Total	-26%	-37%	-27%	-33%	-11%	-6%

Identifying percentage change between the different time periods before and after opening (3 months either side, 6 months either side or the year of opening compared to the year after opening) for varying distances (100m or 200m) surrounding the site. Those in green show decreases in crime reports, the cells in orange show no offences recorded during that time, those in white show no change and those in red show where increases in reporting have occurred.



Hotspots, within 200m Radius from Site A



- Decrease in size of crime hotspot detected on the street outside the venue (identified by  icon).
- Shows a 37% decrease in crime reported within 100m in the 3 months after Site opened.
- 26% decrease in reported crime within 200m of Site A when comparing the 3 months before opening to 3 months after opening.
- Drugs crime has decreased 100% or shown no change in reporting for 100m and 200m respectively when comparing 3 months before to 3 months after.




Fact: No one knows the level of problem gambling

DCMS Levy condoc Oct 23

- “Aim is to improve the provision of high-quality, independent research on gambling”
- Latest available **estimates** put the number of people experiencing problem gambling at around 300,000 (@0.3% of population)
- Changes to gambling participation and prevalence studies
- Gambling Related Harm – no consistently applied definition
- Gambling Disorder - clinical diagnosis only





Fiction: Gambling companies don't contribute to Research Prevention and Treatment (RTP)

DCMS Proposed levels for new statutory levy on operators from 2024/25 replacing current voluntary contributions:

- % GGY when fully in force (2026/27):
 - 1% from all online operators (excluding society lotteries with remote licences)
 - 1% from remote software licences
 - 1% from remote machine technical licences
 - 1% from remote pool betting licences
 - 0.4% from land-based casino/betting (2024/25 – 0.2%, 2025/26 – 0.3%)
 - 0.4% from non-remote software licences
 - 0.4% from non-remote machine technical licences
 - 0.4% from non-remote pool betting licences
 - 0.1% from land-based arcades and bingo
 - 0.1% from society lotteries (including ELMs and LA lotteries licensed by Commission)
- Expected to raise @£90 - 100 million per year by 2027 for RTP (£53m in 2022/23)



Fiction: LAs don't have powers

- Set the local framework for gambling through their statement of principles and a robust evidence based local area profile
- Consider and issue licences for gambling premises with conditions where appropriate
- Refuse, review or revoke premises licences
- Issue, refuse, cancel permits for some forms of gambling
- Undertake inspection and enforcement activities, including tackling illegal gambling



Fact: Gambling Policy Statements are underutilised

- Current 3-year Statement is for the period **31 January 2022 – 2025**
- The Gambling Act 2005 (Licensing Authority Policy Statement) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 (7) (2) *“The statement or revision must be published by being made available for a period of at least 4 weeks before the date on which it will come into effect: (a) on the **authority’s internet website**”*

A GBG exercise in May 2023 identified on **nearly 100 council websites:**

- Statements missing from websites completely
- Websites carrying out of date policies (or in some cases many out of date policies as historic policies have been kept on the website in different locations)
- Draft policies only on websites even though they have been approved by full Council
- Websites directing the reader to contact the licensing team for gambling information
- Some undated Statements so applicants don’t know if they are complying with the “current” 3-year Statement



Fact: Low levels of LA inspection activity but high fees

GBG mapping exercise has identified that in relation to the **331** Licensing Authorities in England & Wales during 2022 - 2023 (*i.e., before the 2023 Local Government Reorganisation changes*):

- **136** Licensing Authorities carried out visits to licensed gambling premises
- **142** Licensing Authorities didn't do any visits to gambling licensed premises (14 however went to "other" premises ie pubs)
- **53** Licensing Authorities didn't submit a statutory return to the Gambling Commission (therefore we can't see whether they carried out any inspection work during 2022-23)
- **164** have one or more fees set at the max including **11** who have published fees exceeding the permitted max (44 don't publish)



Fact: The industry can do better

Land based:

- Betfred, £3.25m for social responsibility & AML failings (July 23)
- Paddy Power/Betfair, £490,000 for marketing failings (May 23)
- William Hill, @£3m for AML failings (March 23)

Remote:

- Over £33m fines this year to date

Source – Gambling Commission website



Fact: GBG wants to work with LAs

- GBG members willing to host training/practical visits to their premises:
 - *GameNation hosted the Metropolitan Police's central licensing unit for a well-received training session in one of their London AGCs*
 - *Welcome Break and Roadchef facilitated practical visits for LA licensing officers at their MSA sites*
- We believe there is a mutual benefit in hosting more of these 'on-site' awareness events and improving the dialogue between operators and LAs
- If you are struggling with illegal gambling activity in your LA - get in touch, we may be able to support



Fact: Free Invite to ICE 8th February 2024

- IOL and GBG invite you to the High Street Hub, at ICE held at ExCeL on Thursday 8th February - its FREE to attend
- Meet our members and learn about the work underway on consumer care
- See first-hand some of the new technologies used in high street betting and gaming venues for compliance and self-regulation – particularly in relation to age verification
- Have a tour around some of the over 600 exhibitors to see the machines and equipment that you will find in high street gambling premises.
- Explore the rest of the exhibition at your own leisure

Interested? Contact Amanda@gamblingbusinessgroup.co.uk so we can plan accordingly



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