



**GBG Licensing Group
By Teams**

30 July 2024

Attendees:

Simon Reynolds (Buzz Bingo)	Debbie Bollard (Hough & Bollard)
Andrea McQueen (Inseinc)	Phil Crier (PBC Licensing) - guest
Amanda Kiernan (Merkur)	Peter Hannibal (GBG)
Lauren Noble (Buzz Bingo)	Charlotte Meller (GBG)
Elizabeth Speed (Novomatic)	

Apologies: David Lucas, Stuart Green

Welcome and introductions.

Item 1 Minutes from January 2024 meeting

1. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the discussions, and the actions completed or picked up under the relevant agenda items, with the exception of paragraph 15: **ACTION: EM to explore other avenues into the LGA**

Item 2 Gambling Review

2. Baroness Fiona Twycross has been announced as the Gambling Minister, who does not have any gambling involvement/knowledge and so is likely to face a steep learning curve which we understand from DCMS officials will include round table meetings with the industry. The DCMS elements of the Review are therefore still on hold.
3. The Commission however is progressing aspects that it had announced in the response to its summer consultation e.g. light touch vulnerability checks from 30 August and the extension of TP requirements to all licensees from the same date.
4. The work to review the GMTS has also recommenced.
5. **ACTION:** CM to find out if the implementation date for changes aimed at improving customer choice on direct marketing is still 17 Jan 2025 or if it has been delayed.

Item 3 Kings Speech

6. No comments made on whether the gambling industry should make a case for the new offence of assaulting shopworkers in the Crime and Policing Bill to be extended to those working in gambling premises. It was noted that the BBPA was going to engage with its pub members as to whether they wanted to progress this for staff in pubs/bars.

Item 4 Gambling Survey for Great Britain

7. The cross-industry group that has been looking at research including the GSGB hadn't been able to agree on a joint letter to submit to the Commission ahead of the publication of the GSGB but will write retrospectively including to the Minister.
8. Members discussed the recent Regulus Partners blog and confusing messaging from the Commission and the need to have someone independent to widely highlight the fundamental flaws of the GSGB.
9. Post meeting ES shared an article from [the Critic](#).
10. Noted that the Guardian had printed a statement on its misrepresentation of the figures.

Item 5 Local Authority Issues

11. Noted that whilst licensing authorities have been/are consulting on their Statements of Policy to come into effect 31 January 2025, they are largely proposing only minor changes, if indeed any changes at all, given the uncertainty of the land-based changes and the associated updates to the Guidance to Licensing Authority.
12. No concerns raised about recent planning or gambling licensing applications.
13. The Commission's report on [LA returns for 2023/24](#) had been published. Of the 350 authorities, 163 LAs didn't do any visits during that period and a further 13 only visited pubs/clubs and not any premises with a gambling licence. A further 20 LAs did not submit their return (this list includes big authorities such as Manchester, Liverpool, Middlesbrough and 4 London councils).
14. Noted one operator had received recent (successful) age verification visit to an AGC in a holiday park in North Wales.
15. The Commission has written to operators asking for a full list of premises with licences and details of any that have been surrendered.
16. The premises register, informed by LAs submitting details of application grants, surrenders etc, is not accurate as the information is not consistently provided to the Commission and they don't update it regularly.

Item 6 IOL Engagement

17. GBG has a session at the IOL's National Training Conference in November and has invited Kate Nichols, the new chair of the IOL to the GBG Board meeting in October.
18. Please contact CM if you have suggestions of articles for the IOL's legal journal.

Next meeting: 29 Oct (By Teams, 10 – 11.30)