



**GBG Licensing Group  
By Teams**

**24 January 2023**

Attendees:

Simon Reynolds (Buzz Bingo)	Leo Charalambides (FTB) Guest
David Lucas	Charlotte Meller (GBG)
Andrew Cotton (Ince)	Peter Hannibal (GBG)

Apologies: Ewen McGregor, Stephen McGowan, Stuart Green, Andrea Kiernan, Andrea MacQueen

**Item 1 Minutes from October 2022 meeting**

1. Minutes agreed as an accurate record of the discussions.

**Item 2 How broadly should the term, ‘gambling’, be drawn?”**

2. The Group discussed this question from the DCMS Select Committee Inquiry in to [Gambling Regulation](#).
3. Andrew reminded everyone of the Commission’s [position paper from 2017 on virtual currencies, e Sports and social casino gaming](#) which looked to balance an interpretation of the legal framework governing remote gambling in Great Britain with an assessment of where interactive entertainment has crossed, or is in danger of crossing boundaries into licensable gambling activities.
4. It was also noted that different countries have different definitions of gambling.
5. There was a discussion around illegal lotteries and LAs not understanding what is legit - with Andrew subsequently providing further information for the minutes.

The last Commission [annual enforcement report](#) covered the topic in 2 sections and demonstrates the sheer size of the problem:

*“We have reported 391 lotteries to Facebook during the financial year 2020 to 2021. Of these, 378 have so far been removed by Facebook.*

*Facebook lotteries are continually evolving both in volume and complexity. The prizes are increasing in value and becoming more diverse. The Commission is engaged with several partner stakeholder agencies, including Police, DWP & local authorities to disrupt the activity referred to.*

*We have reported 23 lotteries to Twitter, 5 concerned hosting and 18 promoting. Of these 2 reports have been dealt with by issuing a Cease and Desist. 18 reports were received regarding YouTube of which 4 have been removed.”*

6. Whilst the Group agreed that it would not be responding to this question as part of the GBG's submission to the Inquiry, it would be stressing that whatever the agreed definition is, then that's the definition that should be used by those undertaking problem gambling research/measurements . Many reports including the [current OHID report on gambling related harms](#) do not define what they mean by gambling, therefore we don't know what they are measuring gambling harm against.

### **Item 3 GBG's High Street Hub at ICE Stand S10 -130**

7. David ran through his proposed content for the presentation on practical tips for inspecting premises, and the rota of lawyers on the stand was confirmed.

### **Item 4 Discussion on recent premises licence refusals**

8. The Group discussed what remedial role, if any, the GBG could play to reduce the trend of licences being refused by both planning (and licensing) on public health (PH) grounds.
9. It was noted that some elected members were pushing for more PH/ health harms info as they didn't understand the differences between LA03 and GA05 objectives/ scope and they often weren't corrected by their licensing officers. Even when they are provided with PH info it generally isn't very robust and is open to challenge.
10. It was noted that under LA03 some councils were trying to use the public sector quality duty to try and stop applications.
11. Planning departments are sometimes just refusing on the basis of having another premises open in a particular location- not because of the type of activity it offers.
12. Discussion around the lack of understanding LAs/police have about high street bingo premises and how much bingo needs to be offered.
13. Agreed it would be useful to work with the IOL and assist with educating elected members –e.g. through articles in the IOL Journal which tend to be more legalistic/authoritative. For example Public Health/Gambling, illegal lotteries etc. and explore more opportunities for GBG members to engage with elected members directly.

### **Item 5 AOB**

14. To consider the new research methodology being used by GC on participation and the prevalence of problem gambling at a future meeting.

**Date of Next Meeting: 25 April 10 – 11.30**