



**GBG Licensing Group
By Teams**

18 July 2023

Attendees:

Sam Moore (Buzz Bingo)	Andrew Cotton (Ince & Co)
Andy Tipple (Mercur)	Aras Kaplan (Leisure Electronics)
Imogen Moss (Poppleston Allen)	Amanda Usher (Woods Whur) Guest
David Lucas	Peter Hannibal (GBG)
Elizabeth Speed (Novomatic)	Charlotte Meller (GBG)
Andrea McQueen (Inseinc)	Michael Neligan (WalkSafe Item 1 only)
Gerald Gouriet (FTB)	Stephanie Ritchie (WalkSafe) Item 1 only

Apologies: Ewen Macgregor, Nick Arron, Felix Faulkner

Introductions and welcome to Gerald Gouriet KC, joining as a guest.

Item 1 WalkSafe

1. MN & SR provided an overview of [WalkSafe](#), the personal safety tools for individuals and businesses, safe spaces and personal safety awareness training.
2. The Group discussed the WalkSafe crime data analysis (from police crime data) which can be used to challenge preconceptions that a new gambling premises will result in increased crime. The analysis can be useful when applying for licence applications/variations to demonstrate the crime levels pre and post a gambling premises opening and to show where mitigating controls have been put in place.
3. Members confirmed they had had crimes erroneously attributed to them (including some crimes which had happened on a passing bus), and so this analysis would be helpful in pushing back on some of the police crime-based representations.
4. The Group agreed that there an educative piece needed for the police and licensing officers to push back on the perception that a gambling premises opening will draw criminals into the area and that trouble will increase. It is also vital that any evidence used (WalkSafe or other) is robust to withstand the inevitable scrutiny from the LA/police.
5. The Group thought the safe spaces tool was also a good concept and some gambling premises had already joined that initiative.

6. SR confirmed that the police data is not postcode based but based on longitude and latitude and will be linked to the closest street rather than be premises specific
7. Michael Neligan: michael@walksafe.io Stephanie Ritchie: stephanie@walksafe.io

Item 2 Minutes from April meeting

8. The Minutes agreed as an accurate record of the discussions.

Item 3 White Paper

9. The DCMS and Commission's consultations are due within the next couple of weeks, with a second tranche of Commission consultations expected in autumn - until then we can only speculate on the legislative detail behind the proposals.
10. Testing new products: The "ability" to test products could be done through technical standards, although legislative change would be needed to subsequently introduce new products.
11. Cash out slot style Cat D machines: DCMS want to mandate the current BACTA voluntary charter whereby under 18s are not permitted to play these machines. Currently these machines do not have to be located in an adult only area within a FEC and it is understood that DCMS do not want to change that. Noted that some AGCs in FECs currently site them in the area immediately outside the AGC One option could be to make it an offence under s59 to play this type of machine. .
12. The Group were not aware that anyone had been prosecuted for allowing an under aged person to gamble (and no action had been taken against an individual). There had been pub cases where the alcohol licence gaming machine permit had been removed (e.g.).
13. LA Fees: CM had mapped the annual /new premises fees for those LAs that had not undertaken any visits during 2021/22 (the last return to the Commission) and found a large proportion had at least one fee set at the maximum. It would be helpful to know which of those LAs were active in putting in representations against new/variation applications. **ACTION: CM to share .**
14. Whilst some members felt they had a good relationship with their LAs irrespective of no visits, they wanted to know what they were doing with their fees which should be set at a cost recovery level only, and which can include compliance and enforcement work as gambling is not part of the EU Services Directive and as such the fees are not caught by the Hemming decision.
15. Casinos – GBG and AC have been working on a definitive list of status of the 1968 casinos (which are being maintained and which have lapsed) as it does not seem

that the information in the White Paper is correct given that the GC premises register and the SENSE list are incomplete.

16 DCMS have indicated they will write to the LAs who have not progressed 2005 licences after their summer consultation is published. At least 3 of those areas have stated they do not intend to hold a competition for the licence.

17 CIAs A smaller subset of this Group had met to discuss how it would be possible to introduce CIAs whilst retaining the aim to permit and could not see how they would do much more than the current local area profiles. It was unclear how many would look to introduce CIAs given that a lot of LAs didn't have up to date Policy Statements nor a Local Area Profile.

Item 4 LA issues

18. No recent cases to report on.

19. Noted that PH would be speaking at the IOL's Gambling Conference in September and that GBG had a session at the IOL's National Training Event in November and wanted to involve some member operators in that session.

Date of Next Meeting: 14 October 10 – 11.30

(Caveat – an earlier meeting will be convened once the consultations are published)