



**Minutes of Licensing Forum Meeting
Tuesday 11 October 2022
By Zoom**

Attendees

Charlotte Meller, GBG	David Lucas, Lucas Licensing Ltd
Peter Hannibal, GBG	Andy Tipple, Merkur - Casino
Steve Sharp GBG	Liz Speed, Novomatic
Richard Bradley, Poppleston & Allen	Ewen MacGregor, TLT
Stephen McGowan, TLT	Amanda Kiernan, Merkur- Casino

Apologies – Andrew Cotton, Nick Arron, Stuart Green, Patrick Hassett

	ACTIONS
<p>Item 1 Cumulative Impact Areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion around the potential inclusion of cumulative impact assessments (CIA) as another tool for LAs in the White Paper, based on an early leaked draft. 2. CIAs were part of the Local Government Association’s (LGA) call for evidence submission. The LGA advised that LAs felt they were open to challenge with Local Area Profiles due to the lack of evidence base but acknowledged that it would be difficult to get robust data for CIAs. The LGA’s response would have been approved by the Councillor membership of its Safer and Stronger Communities Board. 3. Noted that whilst the IOL also included CIAs in its submission, only 13 IOL members (11 were LAs) had contributed to the IOL’s response and that it was the view of one member only. 4. Whilst the White Paper is still in limbo as the new minister has not stated his intentions with it, the group were in agreement that it would be catastrophic if CIAs were to be included. 5. GBG needs to balance drawing attention to it, when it may have already been dropped from the agenda, vs being on the backfoot if it is still in scope. 6. Key discussion points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the majority of LAs gambling is not a high licensing priority. Gambling issues and applications are generally few and far between. 	<p>GBG to informally raise with DCMS/GC officials</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAs are not using their existing powers – and it is unclear what issues that CIAs seek to address that LAs' current tools cannot deal with. • Lack of awareness and Gambling Act training for elected members (borne out in the few hearings that take place, with operators explaining what they do/the controls in place etc). • The House of Lords Select Committee for LA03 identified lack of training as an issue and the same is likely for GA05. • Lack of robust evidence base for CIAs, especially as it would have to be related to the licensing objectives only. (Even within LA03 many CIAs are being removed as they come up for 3 yearly review). • Would need to change primary legislation (aim to permit principle) for CIAs to be introduced. • Noted the increasing use of public health by some LAs although there is no public health licensing objective or robust evidence base (although this is something the LGA had also included in its submission). • Knowsley Council had relied on recent Public Health England data in its Town Centre Uses Supplementary Planning Document • Error in GA05 so that Licensing Standards Officers in Scotland do not have enforcement powers, something that the Law Society raised this again as part of its call for evidence submission. <p>7. EM to remind LAs of their powers at the IOL national conference.</p>	<p>EM and GBG to provide info</p>
<p>2. Secondary legislation – suggestions from members</p> <p>8. Members had previously suggested areas for legislative change. David offered to help identify if this would involve changes to regulations/LCCP etc and bring this back to a future meeting.</p>	<p>CM to set up meeting with DL/PH</p>
<p>3. ICE 2023</p> <p>9. PH updated the Group on the GBG's plans for ICE 2023 for a land-based platform to promote responsible gambling on the high street with all sectors represented. Suggestion to have a rota of solicitors involved to discuss licensing issues with attendees was met with a positive response. Further information will be shared once a final decision is made at the end of October.</p>	
<p>4. Future meetings</p> <p>10. The Group agreed that it would be beneficial to meet quarterly and the option to convene more frequently if the need arises. GBG to check who else might benefit from joining this forum.</p>	<p>GBG to set up 2023 meetings and check membership</p>