



**GBG Licensing Group
By Teams
28 January 2025**

Attendees:

Simon Reynolds (Buzz Bingo)	Debbie Bollard (Hough & Bollard)
Andrew Cotton (Irwin Mitchell)	Eric Howell (Game Nation)
Richard Bradley (Poppleston & Allen)	Anthony Denby (Leisure Electronics)
Sam Moore (Buzz Bingo)	Charlotte Meller (GBG)

Apologies: Elizabeth Speed

Item 1 Minutes from July 2024 meeting

1. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the discussions.

Item 2 Gambling Review

2. DCMS:

- a) Levy – the Regulations have been laid and the Lords Grand Committee debate set for 12 February. Unclear of date of the GC’s guidance/FAQs but DCMS has suggested that it is not imminent.
- b) Ombudsman – there have been no updates from DCMS to BGC since November.
- c) Casinos – the indication is that the SI will be laid before 1 April (currently in informal write around stage) with potentially a summer implementation date, rather than waiting until the October common commencement date.
- d) 80/20 – the BGC has picked up that this is still being discussed within Government. It was also the topic of debate at the December meeting of the [Gambling Reform APPG](#) – the minutes from that meeting have yet to be published.

3. GC:

- a) The GMTS consultation is expected “soon” according to Andrew Rhodes at ICE – this will include a data request to operators about their machine estates, designed to inform the impact assessment of the proposals.
- b) Still awaiting a date from the Commission for the workshop with the cross-industry group to discuss the industry participation data vs the GSGB participation data.
- c) *Ask when the GC response to the autumn 2023 consultation is expected. Action CM.*

Item 3 Other related developments

4. Martyn's Law. The Lords Committee Stage is scheduled to start 3rd February. There will be a considerable implementation time period once the Bill gets Royal Assent (@2 yrs). Consideration will need to be given to guidance for those premises that fall outside the scope of the legislation.
5. The Data (Use and Access) Bill is expected to receive Royal Assent in summer 2025 – it will allow mobile phones to be used for proof of age with age-controlled sales include alcohol sales and access to alcohol licensed premises.
6. The PASS scheme is aiming to have its Digital PASS – “dPASS” - implemented and adopted by December 2025. The LCCP sets out that the (physical) PASS card is permitted as proof of age in gambling premises.
7. Assuming the Commission changes the LCCP to permit the use of dPASS, then machines technology would need to adapt accordingly. This will be discussed at the next GBG Machines Group.

Item 4 Local Authority Issues

8. Noted that most licensing authorities either proposed minor changes to their Licensing Policy Statements or no changes as they await the implementation of the DCMS land-based changes, before undertaking a full review.
9. AL updated the Group on the relocated casino case in Middlesbrough.
10. Noted that there was an ongoing appeal in Sheffield where public health data /information has been cited and that other LAs were trying to understand and replicate the approach.
11. The Group said that any police involvement in gambling applications tended to be in London, where inaccurate crime stats were sometimes quoted, or they were arguing for a set of conditions that the police typically added to alcohol licensed premises to be added to gambling premises without realising they were already requirements of the operator licence/LCCP.
12. CM will be providing an update to the IOL's NE and IOL Wales regional meetings in next couple of months and GBG has submitted an article on the statutory levy for the IOL magazine which goes out to all licensing authorities.

Item 5 ARE Expo

13. The GBG's High Street Hub will feature several workshops for operators at this event in Manchester 29-30 April, and we will be hosting licensing officers on the second day.

Action: please get in touch if you are interested in being involved in the workshops.

Next meeting: 22nd April (By Teams, 10 – 11.30)