



GBG Land Based Responsible Gambling Group Notes & Actions

2 June 2026

Attendees:

Andrea Rushworth (Crown)	Brian Jamson (Roadchef)
Neil McCartney (Crown)	Caroline Bates (Roadchef)
Tony Lister (Cowells Bingo)	Peter Hannibal (GBG)
Melanie Adshead (Buzz Bingo)	Steve Sharp (GBG)
Simon Reynolds (Buzz Bingo)	Charlotte Meller (GBG)
Tracy Baitup (Roadchef)	

Apologies:, Jax Dunkley

Notes from February meeting we agreed as true records of discussions.

Item 1 Increasing visibility on the High Street

1. CM summarised the key points from the ARE Panel session involving BBPA, UKH, Six till Six and the IoL, where the discussion focused on how the pub industry had turned around the negative public and perception of the sector over the past @20 years and where the gambling sector could draw on those experiences.
2. These included raising awareness and visibility of gambling premises with others on the high street, eg through safe street teams, retail crime partnerships, Business Improvement Districts and other similar scheme were strongly advocated as steps for gambling sector to take –befriending those involved to act as your advocate in the relevant meetings, as a conduit to joining.
3. One attendee had experience of Betwatch which had started off positively but the local schemes soon petered out. BIDS, Purple Flag are certainly more established and tend to be more effective.
4. The Group was updated on initial discussions held about the possibility of an accreditation scheme for gambling premises (akin to Best Bar None) .
5. National Directory of Bids in UK [UK BID Directory — Browse 600+ Business Improvement Districts · BID Data](#)

ACTION: Members interested in engaging with a local BID to contact Charlotte, as we may be able to facilitate an introduction (via Six till Six who are involved in a number of the BIDS).

Item 2 GIA Guidance Wish List

6. Whilst we await details of when the Commission/DCMS will start work on the guidance for Gambling Impact Assessments (although we understand this will be after the bingo licensing consultation response is published), we have worked with the GBG's Licensing Group to compile points that will need to be addressed in the guidance. We intend to share this list with DCMS officials in due course.
7. DCMS has indicated that OHID Levy funding given to local authority public health teams is not to be used to build the evidence base for a GIA, but they are checking with OHID and will confirm asap.

Item 3 Gambling Sprint

8. The recent Government/Industry Taskforce leading on the Licensing Act Sprint produced a number of recommendations to help the hospitality sector, many of which have been or are in the process of being taken forward.
9. Whilst there is no indication that a Gambling Act Sprint will be held, we are starting to collate a list of issues which we would want to see considered. These will range from the broad issues such as S&P review, through to more process focused changes such as streamlining the automatic entitlement for machines in pubs and moving to 5 yearly review of policy statements.

ACTION: Members to submit suggestions for this wish list to Charlotte.

Item 4 Licensing Authority Activity

10. A few attendees had received recent LA visits with the following points noted:

- Some visits more thorough than others , with some looking the local risk assessment
- Some using the LLEP checklists
- Note all had provided written feedback after the visits
- Lack of understanding of the different of licences/permits

Item 5: Claims

11. PH provided a broad update on the latest developments following a recent meeting held under legal privilege, plus discussions held with PubWatch about how they use civil banning orders and how this could approach could be replicated in the gambling sector.

ACTION: GBG to explore getting a briefing on the small claims process.

Item 6: GBG's Responsible Gambling Charter

12. No changes required at this time but it will need updating after the Commission responds to the GMTS consultation (now expected late summer).

Meeting dates for 2026 (by Teams) 1100 – 1230

- Tues 8 September
- Tues 1 December

Note: if there are no agenda items to discuss we consider cancelling the meeting, and we will convene earlier if the bingo consultation is published and/or work starts on the GIA guidance.