GBG Land Based Responsible Gambling Group Notes & Actions

8 September 2026

Attendees:

Andrea Rushworth (Crown)	Paul Molyneux (Evoke)
Neil McCartney (Crown)	Brendan Cosgove (Boyles)
Tony Lister (Cowells Bingo)	Nigel Chamberlain (Entain
Sam Moore (Buzz Bingo)	Roz Sage (Dransfields)
Simon Reynolds (Buzz Bingo)	Peter Hannibal (GBG)
Caroline Bates (Roadchef)	Steve Sharp (GBG)
Brian Jamson (Roadchef)	Charlotte Meller (GBG)
Nindi Dhanjal (Game Nation)	

Apologies Elizabeth Speed, Debbie Hough, Dean Harding, Tracy Baitup, Eric Howell

The notes from June meeting we agreed as true records of discussions.

Item 1 Challenges facing the high street & how to counteract them

1. *Aim to Permit Changes* – still awaiting further details and no one has picked up any intel about the implications for the bingo consultation response. Noted that MHCLG have been responding to some of the Parliamentary Questions about Aim to Permit. Still no formal confirmation that Vicky Foxcroft has the gambling portfolio.
2. *MGD* The respective trade bodies have compiled evidence about the impact of MGD on their sectors. GBG is working with Regulus and relevant GBG Members on the impact on clubs, as well as supporting BBPA/UKH to ensure the impact on pubs is reflected in GBG submissions to Treasury.
3. *LA approach to applications*. Coinslot had provided a headline summary of the licensing/planning applications it had featured this year in its publication, with the outcome, where known as some have gone to appeal (copy attached). Common themes raised include rejection 24-hour applications; noise concerns; ASB concerns; concentration of gambling venues and comments like “cheapen” or “damage” the town centre.
4. Noted one bingo application attracted representations about noise from early morning deliveries, resulting in condition restricting such early deliveries.

5. The Group agreed that London and large urban areas were more increasingly more challenging. However it is encouraging to see that "Southport" approved an AGC as it "will boost the local economy by increasing footfall".
6. *Media Coverage.* Members were supportive of continued efforts to push back on the negative media coverage and misinformation cited in Parliamentary debates. The impact on jobs, the wider economy and risk of black market growth being the key messages to stress.
7. Noted that GBG submitted information to the Inquiry by the MHCLG Committee in to Revitalising the High Street.

Item 2 What success have Members had with

8. Game Nation described their experience of being involved in local BIDS such as having a seat at the table with other high street businesses and the local council/police and radios so that you are linked to the Town Centre; Management. BIDS will have different priorities such as graffiti removal and litter collection.
9. Members are encouraged to get involved in BIDS or similar Town Centre Management Schemes. National Directory of Bids in UK UK BID Directory — Browse 600+ Business Improvement Districts · BID Data

Item 3 Gamble Watch Pilot

10. GBG is in discussion with UK Partners Against Crime (UKPAC) about a pilot Gamble Watch in Portsmouth which could then be rolled out. Anyone interested in being involved to contact Charlotte.

Item 4 Gambling Commission

11. *AML Risk Assessment*. The Commission ignored the concerns that GBG Members had raised about the latest Risk Assessment and published anyhow. GBG and the BGC have appointed an company to carried out an independent review of the Risk Assessment to see if they (ex HMRC officers) agree with the industry's concerns. Members frustrated by the absence of GC guidance/steer on how to address the extended list of theoretical risks.
12. *Reducing admin burdens*. GBG will submit suggestions of reducing admin burdens on topics such as machines and AML. Other suggestions welcomed by the end of the month.

13. *New GC Chair* GBG will write to welcome and seek a meeting with Ruth Evans.
14. *YPGS* – GBG has written to the Commission expressing concerns about the misuse of the Young People & Gambling Survey data as flagged in a recent article.

Item 5 Licensing Authority Activity

15. Noted that there had been an LA activity in the run up to end of March but quiet since.
16. GBG has picked up information about Committee Hearings not following the statutory process for Hearings – please continue to share examples so we can discuss with IoL and the LGA.
17. GBG will be speaking with Richard Dutton at the IoL Conference in Stratford on 19th November and Members are encouraged to get involved in the articles we put in the quarterly IoL publications.

Item 6 ARE 2027

18. Whilst the date has yet to be confirmed, next year the event will include a retail betting section, as well as engagement with the pub sector and the IoL

Item 7: GBG's Responsible Gambling Charter

19. The Group Agreed to wait for full review of the Charter until after GMTS published.

Item 8 AOB

20. The GMTS response is expected later in September and GBG will convene a Members' meeting once published. Additionally, the Commission is attending the machines meeting on 7th October.
21. GBG liaising with BGC to minimise duplication and work more closely on retail betting activities more generally.

Next meeting (By teams) Tues 1 December

Note: if there are no agenda items to discuss we consider cancelling the meeting, and we will arrange it earlier if a consultation on Aim to Permit is published.