

**GBG Members' Teams Meeting held on
Wednesday 15th April 2026 at 11.00am**

		<u>ACTIONS</u>
1	<u>Introduction</u> PH welcomed everyone to the GBG Members meeting noting our new member Howard Chisholm from Bookmakers Technology Consortium and Chris Hayley from Dransfield, the parent company of Reflex Gaming, and welcoming new members Boyle Sports. A list of attendees is shown in Appendix 1.	
2.	<u>Guest Speaker: Richard Nokes (RulePlay)</u> PH introduced Richard Nokes of Ruleplay, a GBG member company providing compliance support services to both local authorities and operators. PH highlighted Ruleplay's particular value in bringing perspectives from both the regulatory and operational sides of the sector. Richard delivered a practical presentation on the compliance issues that the Gambling Commission visits focus on. Richard's slide presentation is attached to the minutes	
3.	<u>Matters brought forward from the last meeting – 18th February 2026</u> • There were no declarations of interest • All actions from the last meeting have been dealt with. No actions were outstanding, and no matters were brought forward. • Apologies were all noted	
4.	<u>Legislation and Regulation Update</u> CM reported that GBG had recently submitted responses on the following which are available in the members' area of the website. • The fees consultation • The consultation on the destination of regulatory settlements CM updated members on discussions with DCMS regarding the sequencing of the current reform activity. The current expectation is that: • The Government response to the bingo and casino machine consultation expected before the summer • The fees response is expected "in due course"	

	Progress on both has been disrupted by the late introduction of gambling impact assessment (GIA) provisions within the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill. CM advised that the inclusion of these clauses had left trade bodies and local government with little opportunity to influence the drafting before the provisions progressed. The new clauses go significantly further than expected including overriding aim to permit in certain circumstances and introduce a presumption of refusal. CM advised that the clauses had passed through the House of Lords with minimal resistance despite collective lobbying from the trade bodies. A final Lords reading was due that day, after which the Commons was expected to consider the provisions the following week. Government indicated that it did not intend to amend the drafting, despite the trade bodies having obtained Counsel's opinion and proposed alternative wording. CM also reported that the Institute of Licensing had raised concerns with DCMS about the lack of consultation and the potential for costly appeals and judicial reviews. The Bill may receive Royal Assent next month; however, the gambling impact assessment clauses would come into force later, by commencement order. Before then the DCMS and the Commission would consult on GIA guidance. Andrew Cotton noted that under the Licensing Act framework, cumulative impact assessments are typically based on nuisance, antisocial behaviour and criminality in the wider area, which are not directly transferable licensing objectives under the Gambling Act. He said this would make it difficult for local authorities to justify gambling impact assessments without challenge. (something that the LB of Hammersmith and Fulham are currently facing) CM confirmed that GBG had raised these contradictions and the point the Licensing Act now encourages growth and investment It was noted that the GambleAware website and resources are now owned by OHID and DHSC. GBG has raised concerns about the accuracy of the gambling harms local data profiles on the GambleAware site, especially as they are being increasingly cited in applications. PH formally recorded thanks to CM for her work on the gambling impact assessment issue, noting that she had led for the land-based industry on this matter with support from Elizabeth Speed and Nick Arron.	
5.	GBG Strategy update The GBG quarterly update on the Strategy is attached to the minutes.	
6.	Responsible Gambling Charter There were no updates to report.	

7.	AREE A detailed update on the workshops at AREE , and the GBG's involvement in the IoL gambling conference would be circulated to Members. Thanks was extended to those Members involved in the sessions.	Action CM
7.	Any Other Business CM reported that the next Gambling Commission operator engagement forum is scheduled for 1 July in Birmingham. Hold-the-date invitations had already been circulated, and members were asked to let GBG know if they had not received the invite so they could be added to the mailing list before formal registration opened the following month. PH emphasised the importance of this event, as it would cover the same direction of travel and regulatory themes that Richard had discussed earlier in the meeting.	
9.	<u>Date of next meeting</u> The date of the next Teams meeting is <u>Wednesday, 8th July 2026 at 11.00 am</u>. AF will send out a calendar invite for the next meeting. Remainder dates in 2026 Wed 21st October	Action AF

The meeting finished at 12:00

APPENDIX 1

List of attendees:

First Name	Last Name	Company
James	Armstrong	Boomerang Digital
Elaine	Stewart	Buzz Bingo
Sam	Moore	Buzz Bingo
Neil	McCartney	Crown Leisure
Karen	Hagland	Entain
Simon	Firth	Entain
Sarah	Hill	Evoke
Laura	Lovell	Evoke
Robert	Mace	Evoke
Eric	Howell	Game Nation
Mark	Jepp	Game Nation
Amanda	Fry	GBG
Peter	Hannibal	GBG
Charlotte	Meller	GBG
Steve	Sharp	GBG
Mark	Edmundson	GeWeTe
Aristidis	Tsikouras	GeWeTe
Joanne	Fallon	Greene King
Jason	Lockwood	Greene King
Steven	Jackson	GRS Recruitment
Sharon	White	IGT
Thomas	Trabi	IGT
Andrew	Cotton	Irwin Mitchell
Raj	Mistry	JCM Global
Anthony	Denby	Leisure Electronics
Stuart	German	Light & Wonder
Paul	Monkman	Luxury Leisure
Nigel	Davis	Merkur
Gerwyn	Griffiths	Novomatic
Chris	Pratt	Novomatic
Christian	Koch	Novomatic
Martin	Beard	Novomatic
Martin	Quinn	Playnation Genda
Huw	Lewis	Playnation Genda
Brian	Jamson	Roadchef
Richard	Nokes	RulePlay
Daniel	Chadaway	Stonegate
Dave	Newman	Welcome Break