Notes from The GBG Members' Meeting

21 October 2026

1.	**Nindi Dhanjal, Head of Compliance at City Gaming Limited (Game Nation)** Nindi recently gave oral evidence at the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government Committee– Revitalising High Streets Inquiry. The Committee was very focused on premises on the high street that were selling illegal tobacco and vapes and those not paying taxes rather than gambling premises. None of the speakers referred to gambling premises as "unwanted". Nindi talked through the various licences and permissions that gambling premises and PMLs require and explained the differences between planning and gambling licensing regulation. The Committee also queried why gambling premises were prevalent in deprived areas. The GBG's written evidence to the Inquiry. Hansard record of the Committee session. Charlotte advised that DMCS has been clear that the word "unwanted" in association with legal licensed gambling premises is inappropriate, and they have briefed MHCLG colleagues accordingly. Peter recorded formal thanks to Nindi for speaking on behalf of the GBG and its Members.	
2	**Matters brought forward from the last meeting – 8 July 2026** • 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.	
3	**Legislative updates** **MGD** DCMS has provided evidence to HMT about the implications of raising MGD, but HMT is keeping the budget details tightly	

	controlled. However DCMS expects that any press reports on MGD next week will be closer to the truth than the rumours to date. The GBG wrote to John Healey, and, having liaised with the other trade bodies about where additional evidence was needed, produced a report on the impact of MGD increases on Member's Clubs. **GMTS** Questions were raised last week when the Commission attended the GBG's machines meeting (not least about EBTs, Casinos (SAS), Members clubs and overall timescales). The Commission will share a list of Q&A once it has met with all trade bodies. The GBG Machines Group will start discussions on a GBG staff alerts protocol on 29th October, approaching it from the customers perspective. MD raised concerns about GMTS timescales -and whether the manufacturers will have time to deliver the tech requirements and still allow enough time for operators to embed them. PH queried whether test houses will be able to cope with testing new games prior to the cut off. **Aim to Permit/GIAs/Bingo licensing** DCMS advised today that there were no next steps to share yet, although the Minister may decide to provide some details at the Trade Body Round table on the 26th of October MHCLG will soon publish its High Street Strategy and that will provide more details on the announcements to date about GIAs, Aim to Permit and clarifying the AGC sui generis planning use class.	
4	**ACOS 2026 & REE 2027** No feedback from Members about ACOS. Planning will soon start for next year's renamed "Retail Entertainment Exhibition" taking place on 27/28th April in Manchester.	
5	**Strategy update** Latest quarterly update attached. The GBG will be attending the Commission's CEO briefing on 5th November Please let PH know if you are going as we want to coordinate questions to raise.	All

	After the above meeting, Andrew Tottenham/Dan Waugh/Vaughan Lewis have arranged an industry meeting to discuss the negative anti-gambling pressure that is fuelling policy making. Again let PH know if you wish to attend although spaces are limited.	All
6	**GBG Working Groups** We want members to get maximum value from the various GBG working groups and will soon circulate meeting dates for 2027 and a summary of the different groups. Members are encouraged to consider if they want to add/change representatives on each of the different groups	All
7	**Responsible Gambling Charter** The GBG's Charter will be reviewed and updated by the Land Based Responsible Gambling Group now that the GMTS has been published.	
8	**AOB** **Better Change Event – 11th November** Dave Richardson highlighted their forthcoming event which celebrates the positives of gambling, bringing the industry together and, importantly, highlighting some of the free apprenticeship opportunities available across the sector. • **Venue:** Paddy's Sports Bar, Hippodrome Casino, London • **Timings:** 2pm–5pm, with networking until 7pm (arrivals welcome from 1pm) with a trade body panel at 2.30 **RSVP link:** Proud of Who We Are: proud of our people, our players and our industry – Fill in form **IoL National Training Conference – GBG Session** On 19th November Steve Smyth from the Rank Group and Richard Dutton from ELIAS Partnership will be speaking with the GBG about the use of Facial Recognition technology in gambling premises and its applicability to other premises. **Sensitive Information in Licensing Applications** The GBG continues to raise this with DCMS to ensure that the Home Office decisions made in relation to (alcohol) licensing applications equally apply to gambling premises applications which are caught by Martyn's Law.	

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 3rd February 2027** although we will hold an informal virtual coffee morning for Members before Christmas.

Attendees

- Better Change – Rob Mabbett, Dave Richardson, Anna Davies
- Boomerang Digital– James Armstrtong, Pete Fagg, Chris Wrigley, Howard Gant
- BTC – Glenn Armstrong
- Buzz Bingo – Simon Reynolds, Sam Moore, Mike Douglas
- Cowells Arrow Bingo- Tony Lister, Mark Brenton
- Crown Leisure – Neil McCartney
- Dransfields – Peter Davies
- Entain – Karen Hagland
- Evoke - Sarah Hill, Paul Molyneux, Gary Cornes, Laura Lovell, Robert Mace
- Game Nation – Nindi Dhanjal, Andy Sessions
- GeWeTe – Nigel Davies
- GBG – Peter Hannibal, Charlotte Meller, Steve Sharp
- GRS – Paul Schulper
- IGT – Thomas Trabi, Sharon White, Alina Zwicklbauer. Samual Luciano Lassis
- Inspired - Ian Shreeve, Amos Davies, Matthew Crane, Simon Ainge
- Irwin Mitchell – Andrew Cotton
- JCM Global -Raj Mistry
- Leisure Electronics - Anthony Denby
- Link Integrated – Craig Murray
- LNW - Lee Morton, Barry Healey
- Luxury Leisure – Frazer Prii. James Sturgess, Paul Monkman
- Moto - Shaun Stanley
- Novomatic - Gerwyn Griffiths, Rob Bennett
- Playnation Genda– Huw Lewis, Martin Quinn
- Reflex Gaming – Mark Purdy
- Roadchef – Tracy Baitup, Brian Jamson, Caroline Bates
- Stonegate - Steve Jones

Apologies – Mark Edmundson