

Latest White Paper rumblings suggest a May publication date, argues Gambling Business Group

GAMBLING REVIEW

May the force be with you - Spring's local elections could be the trigger point for the publication of the white paper states GBG chief **Peter Hannibal**.

Cross-sector strategic body, the Gambling Business Group, believes the completion of UK local elections that are being held on 5 May 2022, is likely to fire the starting pistol on the publication of the twice postponed government white paper review of the Gambling Act.

Peter Hannibal, chief executive of the Gambling Business Group, said: "The white paper has already been postponed twice, once from its original 2021 date and then earlier this year. Speculation coming out of Westminster is that because the Online



Safety Bill was published last week, DCMS now has a major piece of legislation out of the way which was path critical; we are also hearing that a write-round consultation between departments on the gambling white paper had not begun as of last week. So, the best current estimate is that the paper could be released shortly after the May local elections, although this is all subject to political considerations and based on there being no unexpected bumps in the road with the write-round."

In a separate development The Times newspa-

per has reported tension between the Chancellor Rishi Sunak and DCMS. According to The Times, Sunak whose North Yorkshire constituency includes Catterick racecourse, has contacted the culture department to voice concerns regarding the potential introduction of affordability checks as well as reforms to advertising and sponsorship by gambling brands. The horseracing industry is believed to be arguing that betting on horseracing is a matter of judgement and should be treated differently from games of chance.