

GBG sees signs of encouragement in the Truss philosophy



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From an industry perspective I think we need to look at the election of Liz

Truss on two levels: firstly, the philosophy that underpins her particular brand of conservatism and secondly her willingness to act decisively in order to address the drastic emergency situation that the industry is in - particularly those licensed operators on the high street. Analysing the content of her acceptance speech I believe there are some encouraging signs for the industry.

Quoting from her speech she said: "I know that our beliefs resonate with the British people. Our beliefs in freedom, in the ability to control your own life, in low taxes, in personal responsibility" adding "During this leadership campaign, I campaigned as a Conservative and I will govern as a Conservative. I will deliver a bold plan to cut taxes and grow our economy."

Providing the industry can continue to demonstrate world class safer gambling

undertakings which have coincided with the record low levels of problem gambling, then there should be no reason for government to over-regulate what is a highly responsible industry.

In tandem with this, the new PM has said that she believes in reducing the burden of taxation as a method of growing the economy.

Licensed operators continue to invest in the high street and I hope that we are able to demonstrate the important role they play in terms of local and regional investment as well as the broader 'leveling-up' strategy.

In terms of the here and now the industry clearly needs to benefit from the new government's emergency intervention on power bills but also, I would hope a much needed, long-awaited root and branch review of business rates.

The Gambling Business Group and its members are looking to the government and Michelle Donelan, the new Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Medi and Sport, to establish a clear strategy for the hospitality industry moving forward which includes the publication of a revised and progressive White Paper on gambling.