



**GAMBLING
BUSINESS GROUP**
Working for a brighter future

GBG NEWSLETTER - 15TH MAY 2023

GBG/DCMS MEETING

GBG's Exec had a useful discussion with Sarah Fox, Deputy Director Gambling and Lotteries and the land-based team at DCMS:

- Confirmation that consultations will be on the detail of the implementation of policy proposals – neither DCMS nor the Commission will be reopening the proposals themselves.
- DCMS hope to have progressed their aspects of the White Paper by end of July 2024 but will go beyond this if necessary.
- The Commission have stated they have a 3-year plan but DCMS advised that this time period also includes evaluation of new policies.
- DCMS was unable to comment yet on whether they stick to common implementation dates. Given the delays to the White Paper they may look to bring forward some of the less controversial proposals.
- Some of the proposals within the White Paper may require changes to the Commission's Technical Standards and hence the reference to the review of

the Technical Standards within the White Paper, even though those standards are within the Commission's gift to change.

- DCMS are keen to receive any legal advice which challenges their assumptions that primary legislation is required for proposals.
 - DCMS welcome early feedback and suggestions ("pre consultation") as well as wanting to engage with GBG Groups once the consultations are issued – one example being the implications of moving to 50/50 machines and the implications for "available for use".
 - They want early engagement with the Cashless Working Group (GBG/BACTA/Bingo Assoc/casinos) – GBG will set up a meeting .
 - DCMS acknowledge that licensing authorities already have sufficient powers already – and that the Statement of Principles is very important . However their view is that the inclusion of cumulative impact assessments (CIAs) would provide them with a tool they are familiar with from the Licensing Act, and so give them more confidence to use it BUT stressed that it would have to be robustly evidence based and could not just be used "because the LA doesn't like gambling premises". DCMS stressed they do not intend to remove "aim to permit " from the Act.
 - The proposal to increase the LA fee cap is linked to CIAs, as this would enable LAs to increase their fees to fund the evidence required. We stressed that very few LAs are currently inspecting premises and that GBG Members had started to facilitate visits/training sessions with LAs and police.
 - DCMS said there is no intention at this stage to introduce Public Health as responsible authorities on the back of CIAs as they don't think that it's necessary.
 - DCMS said MPs including Ian Duncan Smith are being very vocal on the concept of a smart levy.
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- They welcomed the fact that we had allocated specific proposals for consideration at the different GBG Groups.

We will continue to engage with the land-based team through our regular catch ups and we will feedback information from the GBG Group discussions.

And Peter is attending the DCMS Ministerial Round Table meeting on the 25th along with BACTA and the Bingo Association.

DCMS SELECT COMMITTEE - ORAL SESSIONS

Anna Hargrave (Chief Commissioning Officer at GambleAware); Anna Hemmings (Chief Executive GamCare) and Matthew Hickey (Chief Executive, Gordon Moody) will be giving evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee: Gambling regulation on Tuesday 16th May 9:30 am – 1:00 pm; The Grimond Room, Portcullis House. You can [watch the session](#) from 10am.

LABOUR'S NATIONAL FORUM

It has been [reported](#) that Labour has drafted its most comprehensive policy programme to date for a future Starmer-led government, with Labour's National Policy Forum (NPF) drawing up a provisional but wide-ranging blueprint that will help to shape the next general election manifesto. There are few new proposals in the document, but this "initial draft" puts these policies another step closer to making it into Labour's general election manifesto.

One of the six areas outlined in the document is "a future where families come first" and a reference to "*update gambling regulation for the 21s century*" appears under

the heading of enriching family life through culture, media and sport.

BETSMART CONSULTING

Welcome to Kirsty Caldwell and colleagues at [BetSmart Consulting](#) – gambling compliance consultants who have recently joined GBG and who share our objective of improving the land based gambling business and consumer environment with social responsibility at the heart of everything.

KEY MEETINGS FOR REST OF MAY

15th – GBG Licensing Group and GBG Board – specific White Paper focused discussions

17th - GBG Land Based Responsible Gambling Group – White Paper session

18th – All GBG Members meeting

We are also engaging with the Institute of Licensing's regional/national meetings presenting to LAs. Peter recently addressed the West Midlands IOL Group and Charlotte will be speaking at the IOL Summer conference next month.

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