



PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH LOCAL REGULATORS

As you will be aware local authority licensing teams deal with a whole range of licensing issues from alcohol to fireworks, to skips to weighbridges and everything in between including gambling. They are typically not that familiar with gambling premises and whilst there is suite of [inspection templates](#) available they can only go so far in providing an understanding of how AGC, bingo, betting or casino premises operate.

The Gambling Commission had previously supported local authorities (LAs) in conducting joint visits/training but this was stopped a few years ago when their resources were directed elsewhere. The GBG is keen to help bridge the gap . If there is good dialogue between operators/LAs and LAs have a greater understanding of the controls and policies in place in gambling premises they will be better placed to advise Licensing Committees when considering applications.

To that end we are delighted that members have expressed willingness to host training/practical visits to their premises (further info will be in a future Coinslot article):

- In March Game Nation kindly hosted the Metropolitan Police's central licensing unit for a well-received training session in one of their London AGCs
- Later this month Welcome Break will be facilitating a practical visit for LA licensing officers to one of their MSA sites.

[Please get in touch if you are also willing to host licensing officers/elected members/police.](#)

We also have regular dialogue with the Institute of Licensing (IOL) the professional body for LA licensing officers and have agreed:

- Regular features in the IOL's LINK magazine and legal articles in the IOL Journal
- Opportunities to presenting at regional IOL meetings _ they are particularly keen to hear directly from operators (not just GBG's Exec), so please let us know if you are willing/able!
- Securing a platform at the IOL national training conference in November
- Supporting the annual [National Licensing Week](#) – which showcases and celebrates all things licensing. Get in touch with us if you want to participate in job shadowing opportunity as part of that week.

ECONOMIC CRIME LEVY

The Commission has published its [initial guidance](#) on the Levy with further updates due on April. The Levy must be paid to the Commission if you are a licensed casino operator (non remote and remote) and your UK revenue is greater than £10.2 million in the financial year – and even if your UK revenue does not exceed £10.2 million, you will still need to complete a return even though no payment will be made.

SCOTT BENTON MP

Those keeping an eye politics will have seen the outcomes of a sting operation by [The Times](#) targeting a number of pro-gambling MPs. As a result Scott Benton MP Blackpool South has had the whip taken away from him. As part of our political

activities the GBG did hold a meeting with Scott Benton and discussed gambling related matters, but you will be pleased to know that we are not implicated what-so-ever in this story.

BET ON IT

Members may also have seen [the Sun's article](#) yesterday reporting on the alleged proposals in the White Paper from leaked Cabinet documents.

KEY MEETINGS AFTER EASTER

17 April - GBG Board

18 April - GBG Land Based Responsible Gambling Group

19 April - All GBG Members meeting

19 April - GBG Exec /DCMS Land Based team regular catch up

19 April - GBG Exec/Clarion to debrief about ICE 2023 & discuss plans for ICE 2024

25 April - GBG Licensing Group

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