



DCMS LAND BASED GAMBLING TEAM MEETING

The first of our bi monthly meetings with the team was positive although as expected they were unable to provide any timescales about the White Paper given the new SoS/Ministerial appointments but was hopeful they would not want to reopen any issues but just familiarise themselves with the content. We discussed the Department's oversight and relationship with the Gambling Commission, given recent coverage of the Commission's approach to regulation.

On the latter point, Members will be interested to note that Lee Anderson (Con, Ashfield) had tabled a question on our behalf on 2nd February: *To ask the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that (a) all regulators and (b) the Gambling Commission act in accordance with the Regulators Code.*

On 10th February, Kevin Hollinrake (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Business and Trade) answered: *The Regulators Code is a framework for how regulators should engage with those they regulate. The Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, requires those regulators covered by its scope, including the Gambling Commission, to have regard to it when setting their policies and operational procedures. The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) works to support the effective implementation of the Regulators' Code.*

We continue to engage with OPSS on the Regulator's Code.

SCOTT BENTON MP MEETING

A very useful discussion with the Chair of the Betting & Gaming APPG who also has considerable concerns about the Commission and has recently asked questions of BEIS about the Regulator's Code.

He apologised for the ongoing White Paper delay as he is very aware of the impact it is having on land-based gambling businesses at a time when they are also facing rising inflation and energy costs and is concerned about the impact on local economies if jobs are lost and premises closed. He said that the previous Minister Paul Scully had left the White Paper proposals in a radically different and better place from when he had picked them up from his predecessor Chris Philp. However, he advised that whilst the APPG had been engaging regularly with DCMS Ministers they were continuing to fight misconceptions held by a large vocal and well organised group of MPs, on topics including problem gambling, the PHE research and on affordability issues.

BRIEFING FOR LORD DON FOSTER

During his visit to the GBG High Street Hub at ICE, Lord Foster asked for a briefing setting out GBG members' key issues for the White Paper, plus position statements on Age Verification, Ombudsman, Levy and Cashless. We will let you know when this document has been added to the Members' Area of the GBG website.

IOL ARTICLE - SAFER GAMBLING ON THE HIGH STREET

As part of the GBG's partnership with the Institute of Licensing (IOL - the professional body for local authority licensing practitioners) we have secured article space in its quarterly LINK magazine. Tony Boulton, Director of Public and Political Relations at Merkur UK featured in the first GBG article – a Q&A focusing on safer gambling on the high street - see pages 16/17 of the latest [LINK Magazine](#).

INTERVISION GAMING UK

Welcome to Peter Pal and colleagues at [Intervision Gaming UK](#) who have recently joined GBG, and you will hopefully get to meet them at the next GBG Machines Group meeting.

LEISURE ELECTRONICS

We would also like to welcome Sean Young, Simon Wykes and Chris Shipley back into the GBG fold after a short absence. It was good to see these guys supporting us on the GBG Stand at ICE 2023 and we are delighted to see them back.

GAMBLING COMMISSION CONSULTATIONS

On a less upbeat note, the GC has embarked on its latest tranche of [consultations](https://consult.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/author/consultation-on-gamstop-suicide-reporting-and-pms-2/consult_view/): https://consult.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/author/consultation-on-gamstop-suicide-reporting-and-pms-2/consult_view/

- Extending the multi-operator self-exclusion scheme to additional categories of betting licensee. Most gambling businesses offering remote betting are required to participate in an online multi-operator self-exclusion scheme known as GAMSTOP. Where a customer signs up to GAMSTOP, they will automatically be self-excluded from all online gambling offered by all operators who participate in the scheme. We are consulting on changes to Social Responsibility Code Provision 3.5.5 Remote multi operator self-exclusion to extend the requirement to participate in the GAMSTOP scheme to all licensees that make and accept bets by telephone and email.
- Reporting deaths by suicide to the Commission. We are consulting on adding a requirement to Licence Condition 15.2.2 'Other reportable events' that would require all licensees to inform us when they become aware that a person who has gambled with them has died by suicide.
- Payment services - technical update. We propose to amend the text of Licence Condition 5.1.2 which relates payment services to ensure that the condition reflects the current legislative provisions. We propose a further amendment to ensure that the condition also reflects any further legislative amendments to the Payment Services Regulations that might come into force in the future.

We will be liaising with members on the somewhat contentious point in due course – consultation closes on **May 23rd**.

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