

GBG NEWSLETTER - 18TH JANUARY 2024



WHITE PAPER CONSULTATIONS

- DCMS has issued a supplementary consultation on the machine ratios in bingo and AGCs with a short deadline of 31st January which we will circulate under a separate email but in summary 2 more options are being considered:
 - Introduce a 2:1 ratio, allowing an operator to site two Category B machines for each Category C or D machine, where devices are of a comparable size. This rule means that for each Category C cabinet sited, an operator is allowed to site up to two Category B cabinets. The same would apply for in-fill machines and tablets.
 - Introduce a 3:1 ratio, allowing an operator to site three Category B machines for each Category C or D machine, where devices are of a comparable size. This rule means that for each Category C cabinet sited, an operator is allowed 2 to site up to three Category B cabinets. The same would apply for in-fill machines and tablets.

We will need members' input on these two additional options so look out for the email.

- Thank you for your contributions to date on the [GC Autumn Consultation](#) - on LCCP and RTS changes (deadline 21 February) - further commentary about the proposed changes to Regulatory Return submissions and the other proposals are welcomed
- We will be discussing the GC's consultation on [proposed changes to financial penalties](#) (deadline 14 March) at this month's Licensing Group, but again additional input welcomed.

- We understand that DCMS' response to its land-based gambling consultation is expected late in Q1 (presumably after they consider the additional 80:20 evidence) whilst GC is expected to take the response to its summer consultation to its February Board for sign off prior to publication.
- GBG's response to the Dept of Business & Trade's consultation on the Growth Duty can be found in the members' area of the website.

OMBUDSMAN UPDATE

The Betting & Gaming Council are due to meet with DCMS and the Ombudsman Association (OA) officials within the next week to discuss how best to address DCMS & OAs concerns with the BGC's draft proposed Code of Conduct – which mainly relate to the proposed de minimis levels and information sharing plans.

BGC will then be meeting with the likely candidate for being “*The body to adjudicate complaints relating to social responsibility or gambling harm where an operator is not able to resolve these*” (extract from White Paper), and they intend to provide a cross industry update in mid-February. We will circulate that date on receipt from BBC. The BGC is still working to a timescale of having such a body in place by the end of this summer.

GBG'S HIGH STREET HUB (S10-130) AT ICE

A reminder that we have an excellent variety of experts for Members and all visitors to drop in and see at the High Street Hub next month including:

- Age Verification – Tony Allen, Age Check Certification Scheme
 - Compliance – Howard Gant, Boomerang Digital (Smart Hub)
 - Data Protection – Richard Dutton, ELIAS Partnership
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- Licensing – David Lucas, Institute of Licensing
- Responsible Gambling, AML & CFT – Kirsty Caldwell, Betsmart Consulting
- Safety, responsibility and partnership working – Sylvia Oates Six till Six
- Security – Jim Leitch, Link Integrated
- Technical Standards – Rob Wheeler, GBG

Some of you will have your own stands but we hope you have time to call into the High Street Hub.

LICENSING & PLANNING

Members may be interested to note that Rt Hon Chris Philip MP, Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire, [has written to licensing authorities](#) about the relationship between licensing and planning. Whilst his comments relate to his area of responsibility, the Licensing Act 2003, many of the suggestions are equally applicable to planning and the Gambling Act, and we will continue our dialogue with the Institute of Licensing on how to best to address this in the context of GA05.

- *“ensuring that all relevant local licensing officials have suitable training on matters of licensing and planning, including on the overall regimes and how the two regimes interact.”*
 - *“we encourage you to explore all options available to you to improve local collaboration. This may include considering opportunities to co-locate planning and licensing teams.....as well as continuing to engage with local residents and identify ways to support them in presenting any concerns about applications to licensing committees and how they interact with planning requirements.”*
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GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY BUSINESS FRIENDLY LICENSING AND REGULATION WORKSHOP ON 23 JANUARY

Those members with premises in London may be interested in attending this [free online workshop](#) on Tuesday 23 January, where there will be a panel of licensing professionals, including the London Night Czar, senior local authority licensing officers, night time operators and a licensing solicitor, to debate the opportunities that exist within the licensing system that can enable businesses to flourish in London. Whilst the focus is likely to be mainly on the Licensing Act, it will be a good opportunity to hear of what London authorities want to see in their night time economies.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS FOR JANUARY INCLUDE

- GBG Exec attending meeting about GC gambling survey methodology - 23 January
- GBG All Members meeting – 24 January
- GBG Licensing Group – 30 January

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