

GBG NEWSLETTER – 18TH OCTOBER 2023



DCMS CONSULTATION ON THE STATUTORY LEVY

The [8 week consultation](#) was published this week, with a closing date of the 14 December. By 2026/27 when the levy rates are fully in force DCMS proposes 0.1% GGY for land based AGCs, Bingo, FECs, oncourse bookmakers and society lotteries, and 0.4% GGY for land-based casinos and LBOs.

DCMS' proposals cover 3 key areas:

- **Structure:** Having taken into account evidence of the differing association of different sectors with harm and/or their differing fixed costs to ensure that rates are fairly and proportionately set, while raising sufficient funding for key projects and services, DCMS propose that online operators pay the levy at a higher rate than land-based operators. Expect that the levy will raise c.£90m-£100m per year when fully in force by 2026/2.
- **Distribution:** Propose that c.10-20% of levy funding should be directed each year to UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the umbrella body for UK research councils, as part of a new, multidisciplinary Gambling Research Programme; 15-30% should be used to fund a programme of prevention and education to raise awareness of gambling harms across Great Britain; and 40-60% should be directed to the NHS to improve and expand treatment commissioning for gambling addiction across the full treatment pathway.
- **Governance:** Propose that a Statutory Levy Board and separate Advisory Group are established to ensure appropriate government oversight of the

levy system, as well as creating a forum for sector experts across public health, academia and charities to inform funding priorities.

We will be discussing the proposals with GBG Members starting with the Members meeting on 25th October.

GAMBLING COMMISSIONS UPDATE AT GBG BOARD

Brad Enright, the Director of Strategy at the Commission addressed the GBG Board earlier this week:

- The Commission's response to its consultation changes to MOSES and notification of deaths by suicide been [published](#)
 - They have received over 2400 responses to their consultation on proposed changes to Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP), Remote Gambling and Software Technical Standards (RTS), and arrangements for Regulatory Panels. Please note that the GBG's response to this consultation is available in the Members' area of the website.
 - The next Commission consultation is expected in November which will focus on socially responsible incentives (free bets, bonuses, transparency of T&Cs) and gambling management tools.
 - The Commission is open to discussion about the implementation timescales for their proposals.
 - Similarly, they are considering the sequencing of changes to the Gaming Machine Technical Standards (a general refresh is needed in addition to changes resulting from the White Paper proposals). GBG is involved in the early discussions with the Commission on the GMTS consultation plans. They are keen to include suitable White Paper changes in the GMTS
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and not in secondary regulations.

- The Board discussed the Commission's proposed new Industry Forum which will be focusing on how to resolve common issues. They are currently [seeking a Chair](#) who will be instrumental in the Forum's structure and governance.
- The Commission is working on a new corporate strategy and 6 new Commissioners will be joining shortly.

CHANGES TO WORKPLACE RECYCLING IN WALES

From 6 April 2024 new laws take effect meaning all workplaces such as businesses (including gambling premises), public sector and charities will need to separate their recyclable materials in the same way most households already do. [Guidance](#) has been issued by the Welsh Government with further sector specific guides expected before April.

KEY MEETINGS OVER THE NEXT FORTNIGHT

- Meeting with Gambling Commission re GMTS - 23 October
 - GBG Licensing Group – 24 October
 - GBG Exec and DCMS Bimonthly catch up – 25 October.
 - GBG Members meeting – 25 October
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- GBG Land Based Responsible Gambling Group – 1 November

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