

GBG NEWSLETTER – 5TH OCTOBER 2023



WHITE PAPER CONSULTATIONS

Response to DCMS consultations:

The GBG responses to the DCMS consultations on land-based gambling measures online slots stakes limits have been submitted to DCMS and are available on the Members' area in the "Submissions" folder.

Response to the Commission's consultation:

We will shortly be circulating our draft response to the Commission's consultation for any final views. We are only responding to the questions on strengthening age verification in premises; improving consumer choice on direct marketing; extending PML requirements and changes to Regulatory Panels.

DCMS DATA REQUEST

We have agreed with the DCMS that the machines data they have asked for will be managed through ourselves and the other Trade Bodies as follows:

- The trade bodies will collect the data from manufacturers and gain operator consent for this data to be shared with DCMS.
- Trade bodies will anonymise and amalgamate the data and share with DCMS, including all available data points.
- Data will be split by premises license type and gaming machine type as per the template so that data remains meaningful for our analysis.

- Trade bodies will provide narrative on the data and an adjusted version of the dataset, in addition to supplying the full dataset. DCMS will take this narrative and adjusted dataset into consideration in our analysis.

However, we are also dealing with the fact that the format of the data is not easy to merge and the inherent risks when processing and sharing sensitive data. This is therefore still very much work in progress.

OMBUDSMAN UPDATE

The BGC has developed a draft Code of Conduct for the Ombudsman to adjudicate on, using the GC's Code of Practice - Chapter 3 Protection of children and other vulnerable persons as a base, and is waiting on feedback from DCMS.

They did not share the "scope" section of the draft code with DCMS as the bulk of the potential cases for the Ombudsman will arise from financial risk checks, and therefore without resolution of industry concerns on the financial risk checks, the entire Ombudsman will have no basis to adjudicate on these cases. There is uncertainty as to the future of financial risk checks as the main check is simply not a product yet and that the current consultation contains measures never envisioned in the White Paper.

BGC is waiting on resolution/direction from DCMS on three key issues before the work can continue, but BGC is still on track to finalise the scope by the end of the year and begin the tender process in January 2024:

1. Uncertainty concerning affordability consultation (as outlined above).
 2. Ombudsman Association criteria and how it interplays with current ADR service providers.
 3. There must be a mechanism to compel the whole industry to participate at the inception.
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BGC will host an industry wide update meeting once DCMS' feedback has been received.

UPDATE ON MARTYN'S LAW

The Home Office has advised that the Martyn's Law (the Protect Duty) will be taken forward as soon as Parliamentary time allows but they are hoping for the 4th session of Parliament.

Who the regulator will be; how many inspectors are needed and how they will operate are still under policy development. However, they are looking at the structures of the Health & Safety Executive and Fire & Rescue Authorities and estimate that inspectors will have an educational and advisory function, and only inspect @3-5% of premises in scope annually. Whether these are targeted or random visits is part of the ongoing discussions.

Full guidance, tools and support will be available on the [ProtectUK site](#) once the legislation has passed. In the meantime, the Home Office has stressed NOT to use third party suppliers offering support on compliance with Martyn's Law. The Bill is not yet law and the Home Office do not endorse any of those third-party products.

Contact ProtectDuty@homeoffice.gov.uk if you have queries about Martyn's Law.

UPDATED CHALLENGE 25 POSTERS

The Retail of Alcohol Standards Group (RASG) have updated their [free downloadable C25 posters](#) (both for alcohol underage posters and age restricted products posters), which are endorsed by the National Police Chiefs Council.

GBG MEETING DATES 2024

We will shortly be sending out calendar invites for GBG meetings for 2024 and will be updating the full list of meeting dates on the website

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