

GBG NEWSLETTER – 8th MARCH 2024



MEETING WITH STEPHANIE PEACOCK MP

On the back of an introductory briefing sent to the DCMS Shadow Minister, Peter and Charlotte had a positive meeting with Stephanie this week to explain more about the Gambling Business Group and discuss the White Paper proposals which will have most impact on GBG members. We also talked through the issues that have yet to be addressed including a Triennial Review, the Ombudsman and the GSGB methodology. We followed up the meeting with additional information that she requested and will continue to keep that dialogue going.

GAMBLING COMMISSION SPRING CONFERENCE

GBG Exec attended the GC's "Better Evidence, Better Outcomes conference", where the focus was very much on data, with sessions focusing on AI; countering illegal (online) gambling; consumer insights to inform regulation and open banking data for research and regulation. The sessions on the Gambling Survey for GB were the most lively with challenging questions raised by the cross-industry Scrutiny Group including those posed by the recommendations from [Professor Sturgis' independent review](#).

The Commission confirmed they were considering the recommendations and which to address first, but this work would not be done before the publication in July of their Year 1 Report which will include marked increases in - gambling participation, problem gambling rates, harms (suicide attempt, domestic violence, harms to affected others etc). The Commission said they would be publishing a media pack with the July report, stressing the need for “**due caution**” with the figures and would address any misuse/misrepresentation of the data. GBG and the cross-industry Scrutiny Group will continue to raise concerns about the GSGB..

Unfortunately, that very same day saw the Gambling Minister himself using the following paragraph in his speech to the APPG for Gambling Harms with no caution applied whatsoever; ***“The indication from the GSGB that 2.5% of adults are gambling with negative consequences, with even greater numbers at risk, shows there is clearly still more to do to tackle gambling harms”.***

CROSS INDUSTRY MENTAL HEALTH GROUP

Peter attended the second of these meetings earlier this week. This group has been formed from across the industry with the objective to embrace the difficulties and complexities across the mental health spectrum in gambling.

It is very early days for the group; however, it is already expanding to include experts from the 3rd sector. Initial discussions have related to a) how we might be able to equip operators with the skills, tools and knowledge to be able to recognise mental health issues at the earliest opportunity, and b) how to deal with the misuse of facts and intelligence in this highly sensitive area. *If any Members have an interest or wish to support us with this then please get in touch.*

IOL LINK MAGAZINE - MSA FEATURE

We are delighted that this quarter's Institute of Licensing (IOL) [LINK Magazine](#) features articles on Motorway Service Areas by Welcome Break's Nick Jackson (page 24 -25) and GBG (pages 26-27). Having a regular feature in this magazine is invaluable in contributing to GBG's Strategic Aims of improving the reputation of land-based gambling and building up the knowledge of local authority licensing officers (this magazine goes directly to licensing officers in all councils). We know from our engagement with LAs at ICE that there is an awareness mountain to climb, *so we would welcome offers from other GBG Members to feature in future articles.*

We are also actively exploring other options for GBG and IOL to work together as part of the GBG's strategic aim "to be the industry point of contact for local regulators" including webinars and sessions at the IOL's National Training Event in November. *Again, please get in touch if you are an interest in being involved.*

GC CONSULTATION ON FINANCIAL PENALTIES AND REPORTING CHANGES IN OWNERSHIP

We have specifically asked the GBG Licensing Group to advise of any concerns with this [consultation](#), but if any other GBG Members have issues they want us to include in any response please email charlotte@gamblingbusinessgroup.co.uk by Wednesday 13th March (closing date is 15th)

KEY MEETINGS OVER NEXT FORTNIGHT

- 20 March – GBG & DCMS Land based Team regular catch up
 - 26 March – GBG Tech Forum
-