

# GBG NEWSLETTER – 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024



## UPDATED GBG RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING CHARTER

Members will be aware that the Charter was launched at ICE 2023 and since then has been kept under review by the GBG's Land Based Responsible Gambling Group. Based on feedback received and on the outcome of the benchmarking exercise undertaken last year (*findings shared via the GBG's Newsletter, 21 November 2023*), we have streamlined [the Charter](#) and included a new principle regarding corporate social responsibility activities. The GBG Group will continue to keep the Charter under review and update as /when appropriate and it is on hand to discuss if Members have questions about meeting the Charter's Principles. The Charter is a key part of the GBG's Strategic Aim to lead on raising Corporate Social Responsibility across the land-based sector.

## OMBUDSMAN

As Members are aware the BGC is taking the lead on producing a draft Code of Conduct for a Gambling Ombudsman. The GBG Exec were pleased to see that the latest draft of the Code addressed many of the concerns that GBG Members had raised earlier in the year. The draft is currently with DCMS for consideration and all parties hope to finalise the Code within the next couple of months. With the right

resourcing, we think that IBAS is the natural home for responsible gambling complaints along with all other unresolved gambling complaints.

## **GAMBLING SURVEY FOR GREAT BRITAIN**

This Cross Industry Scrutiny Group, which includes the GBG, is now looking at actual participation numbers by sector to cross check with the Gambling Survey for Great Britain figures to ascertain the accuracy of the Commission's data. This work feeds into the GBG's Strategic Aim to lead on holding government to account in developing robust evidence-based gambling regulation.

## **GLOBAL AGE ASSURANCE STANDARDS**

### **SUMMIT - PANEL:**

## **AGE ASSURANCE FOR GAMBLING & GAMING**

On 11 April Peter will be moderating a Panel session at the Global Age Assurance Standards Summit being held in Manchester . The Panel will explore the evolution of age assurance in a sector with self-exclusion, affordability, social protection and suicide prevention as objectives alongside reducing underage gambling.

The Panellists involved in the session are:

- Wes Himes; Executive Director, Standards and Innovation, BGC
  - Alastair Graham; Chief Executive Officer, Age Checked
  - Keith Ferguson; Senior Product Manager, Poker Stars
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## IOL PUBLICATIONS

Members may be interested in the article in the latest [IOL's Journal of Licensing](#) by Charlotte Meller on "Improved coordination between gambling licensing and planning could save all time and money" (pages 19- 21).

Through its partnership with the IOL, the GBG has a guaranteed article space in the quarterly IOL publications (Journal of Licensing and LINK) both of which are circulated to all local authority council officers. This is an excellent opportunity to improve the knowledge of how high street gambling premises operate and how they contribute to the local communities. This work supports the GBG's Strategic Aim to be the industry point of contact for local regulators. Please get in touch with Charlotte if you are willing to be involved in future articles.

## COMMISSION'S CORPORATE STRATEGY

The Commission has published its [Corporate Strategy for 2024 - 2027](#) developed around:

- Delivering on the decisions taken to bring about significant and lasting change to how gambling is provided, and the National Lottery is operated.
  - Investing in key areas to improve how we deliver our work for consumers, the public and licensees.
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## KEY FORTHCOMING MEETINGS IN APRIL

11 April – GBG Exec attending National Licensing Forum

15 April – GBG Board

17 April – All GBG Members Meeting – **guest speaker Nick Rust, Chair of the Industry Forum**

24 April – GBG Exec/DCMS land-based team monthly catch up

30 April – GBG Licensing Group meeting

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