



## **GBG NEWSLETTER 26 SEPTEMBER 2024**

### **GAMBLING MINISTER**

Over the summer we wrote to Baroness Twycross in her new role as Gambling Minister and recently had a cordial response. We look forward to working with her, and we continue to have regular engagement with officials at DCMS. We understand that DCMS officials are still briefing the Minister and waiting for a decision on the Gambling Act Review priorities.

We have also written to Louie French, MP for Old Bexley & Sidcup, in his new role of Shadow Minister for Sport, Gambling and Civil Society, seeking a meeting to discuss the Gambling Act Review and the GSGB.

### **GMTS PRE CONSULTATION**

Following engagement with the GBG Machines Group we will be submitting the GBG's response to the Commission's pre consultation on GMTS by the 30 September. Please note that there is no date set for the formal GMTS consultation, but the Commission's best case scenario is pre-Christmas, however they are taking stock of what DCMS is doing.

### **GAMBLING SURVEY FOR GREAT BRITAIN (GSGB)**

We are involved in regular cross industry meetings to discuss a coordinated industry response to the new survey and the repeated misreporting of the figures. One of the

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latest examples is in the recently published [IPPR report on health and prosperity](#)– see pages 72/73 for the report’s views on gambling

## PROFESSOR DAVID FORREST

Members may have read the recent article in [Coinslot by David Forrest](#), Professor of Economics at the University of Liverpool Management School, commenting on the GSGB. He was just as compelling when he attended the GBG’s Board meeting in July.

## LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

Sharing some of the key messages from two e-gambling fringe events at the recent Labour conference:

- Gambling with Lives event ‘*Stopping Gambling Suicides*’ was chaired by sports commentator Clive Tyldesley. The panellists said that the common argument about the majority of people gambling safely is not correct and that there is an urgent need for further regulation of the sector. Other views included the need for more enforcement and for a greater focus on prevention of harm. (Panellists: Charles Richard, Co-Founder, Gambling with Lives, Julie Bentley, Chief Executive Officer, Samaritans; Abtisam Mohamed MP, Sheffield Central; Tom Witherow, Special Projects Reporter, The Times).
- The Social Market Foundation (SMF) event ‘*Bad money: the economics of gambling harm*’ was less overtly negative, but with panellists still largely of one mind about the need for further regulation of the industry. Baroness Twycross reiterated her commitment to working on and addressing gambling harms. She said that Labour largely supports the previous Government’s White Paper and wants to ensure the work on this doesn’t get lost and is taken forwards. She acknowledged that it is a contested and complex policy space. She said that the Government do not believe that gambling is inherently wrong but there is a need to increase protections for those at risk. She committed to engaging with industry and other stakeholders before moving forwards. (Panellists: James Noyes, Senior Fellow, SMF (Chair); Baroness Twycross, Minister for Gambling; Will Hutton, Author and Columnist at The Observer; Professor Adrian Pabst, Fellow at The National Institute of Economic and Social Research; Sarah Coombes MP (West Bromwich); Derek Webb, Co-Founder, Campaign for Fairer Gambling).

There was no obvious industry representative at the events – either on the panel or in the audience. At both events, the new statistics on problem gambling were quoted, though the fact that a new methodology had been used was acknowledged.

## GC ANNUAL REPORT/ACCOUNTS FOR 2023/24

Running to a mere 182 pages, the [Gambling Commission Annual report and accounts 2023-2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) is available on the gov.uk website.

## TERRORISM (PROTECTION OF PREMISES) BILL

Please note that this [Bill \(also known as Martyn's Law\)](#) was introduced to the House of Commons on 12 September, with a second reading scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> October.

## WINTER CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT

Members may wish to note that the Counter Terrorism Policing [communications winter campaign toolkit](#), which encourages customers and staff to stay alert over the festive period, is now available to use between 25 September and 3 January 2025.

## KEY FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

- 10 October – National Licensing Forum
  - 14 October - GBG Board
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- 16 October – GBG Members Meeting – Paul Sculpher, Gaming Recruitment Solutions

Minutes from recent GBG machines and land-based meetings are available in the Members area of the website.

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