



## **GBG NEWSLETTER 9 DECEMBER 2024**

### **LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON THE GMTS**

The Commission recently convened a cross-industry meeting to discuss ways to engage with the whole spectrum of the industry once the GMTS consultation is published (which will be at some point after ICE). The Commission is keen to speak to as many groups/sub groups as possible both during the 12-week consultation period and after when they are analysing the feedback. Once the consultation document is published, we will set up meetings with Members to discuss the proposals and arrange engagement with the Commission. They are happy to meet in person, via Teams and to undertake site visits to understand the implications.

The Commission is also seeking permission to use data previously provided to the DCMS strictly for its work on the Gambling Act Review. The GBG and other trade bodies are liaising with the relevant licensed machine operators as it is their data. Please contact Peter if you have any queries.

### **BARONESS TWYCROSS AT GAMBLEAWARE CONFERENCE**

Members are encouraged to read the Minister's [inaugural formal address](#) at the recent Gamble Aware event, where every comment supporting industry growth was counterbalanced with one calling for more regulation, for example:

*“I want to support the industry where the evidence suggests that it is appropriate and proportionate to do so. For example, I am very aware of the relatively modest changes being asked for by the casino sector. I support the measures outlined in the white paper and I will provide an update as soon as possible on their progress.*

*I also want to work closely with other parts of the land-based sector, such as bingo clubs and seaside arcades to understand what we can do to support them. They are a vital and vibrant part of many communities and I want to see them thrive, not just survive.*

*But growth cannot and will not be at the expense of player safety. I want to work with the land-based sector and the Gambling Commission to ensure that player protection measures, such as self-exclusion schemes, are effective and that members of staff are equipped to support those at risk of gambling-related harm”.*

## **GAMBLING ACT REVIEW (GAR) EVALUATION PLAN**

DCMS and the Gambling Commission have [published](#) an outline of a GAR evaluation plan, which set out the evaluation aims, objectives, evaluation questions, analytical framework and research methods. The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) has been appointed to deliver the evaluation with the report expected in 2026.

### **WELCOME TO COWELLS BINGO**

We are delighted to welcome Tony Lister and colleagues from Cowells Arrow to the Gambling Business Group. Cowells Arrow is best known for their Bingo Tickets, Dabbers and Popp Opens (Lottery tickets). However, they are now a machines manufacturer and are growing into the Pub & Club market as a supplier of Gaming & Amusement machines. The acquisition of Automatic Machine Services in 2022 has been supplemented by two additional acquisitions this year; I&J Leisure and most recently Spin2Win. Cowells has entered the market as a manufacturer of B3A machines that it distributes through Cowells, AMS, I7J and S2W.

### **NEW CHAIR OF THE GBG'S MACHINES GROUP**

We are delighted that Mark Gibson, Head of Systems Development at Luxury Leisure has agreed to take over the Chair of the GBG's Machine Group and also the Technical Forum, supported by Mark Jepp, CEO of Game Nation. Many thanks to Nigel Davis for his sterling chairmanship of the Group. We are currently reviewing the membership of both groups and will be in touch to confirm your representatives.

### **KEY DECEMBER AND JANUARY 2025 MEETINGS**

17 December – Peter to meet with the Shadow Secretary of State, Stuart Andrew, and Shadow Gambling Minister, Louis French

18 December – Exec regular meeting with DCMS' land-based team

20 January – GBG MSA operators meeting

28 January – GBG Licensing meeting

The minutes from the meetings of the GBG's Land Based Responsible Gambling and Machines Groups are available in the Members' area of the website.

## **CHRISTMAS WISHES**

Steve, Peter, Amanda and Charlotte would like to take the opportunity to send best wishes to all GBG members and their families for Christmas and the New Year. We much appreciate your support and contributions to delivering GBG's strategic plan over the past year and navigating through the stop start year of the Gambling Act Review, and we look forward to working with you all in 2025. As with previous years, we have donated to Shelter in lieu of sending Christmas cards.