

GBG NEWSLETTER – 21st MAY 2025



UPDATE FROM GBG's MEETING WITH THE LAND-BASED TEAM AT DCMS (21 MAY)

Ministerial correspondence

- Members will recall that the Minister wrote to the industry in April setting out her plans for land-based gambling over the next year. In that letter she said, *“I would like to better understand how the adult gaming centre sector protects its customers from gambling related harm and the measures it has in place to ensure the highest standards of regulatory compliance.”* DCMS said that the Minister will be setting out her expectations from the AGC sector (no timescales given for that correspondence).
- DCMS also confirmed that the Minister will be responding to GBG's response to her letter. She will also be responding to the GBG's letter to Brent Council, which she was a copy recipient.

Statutory Levy

- Officials advised that the Commission's guidance on the levy will be published in the “next month or so”.
- DCMS in the meantime have been regularly engaging with the third sector and support services to support and reassure them through the funding transition period.

Cat D Stakes & Prizes

- DCMS want to have a meeting in the next few weeks to help inform the summer consultation on Cat D Stakes & Prizes. Please get in touch with Peter or Charlotte if you have an interest in Cat D machines as we need to understand your views and let us know if you want to be involved directly in the meeting alongside us.

DRAFT CASINO STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS (SIs)

DCMS has [published the Casino \(Gaming Machines and Mandatory Conditions\) Regulations 2025](#) and two associated draft SIs.

- the Gambling Act 2005 (Commencement No. 6 and Transitional Provisions) (Amendment) Order and the
- the Gambling Act 2005 (Premises Licences and Provisional Statements) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations

The SIs are in draft so could change but are due to come into force in 22nd July along with The [Gambling Act 2005 \(Gaming Tables in Casinos\) \(Definitions\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2025](#)

- DCMS confirmed today that although the original consultation had proposed that the variation fees for “extended converted casino premises” would align with the 2005 casino fees, due to time restrictions the variation fee will actually be the same as for a converted 1968 casino i.e. a maximum of £2000
- In terms of guidance, DCMS advised that the Commission is leading on guidance for licensing authorities (which is expected pre the SIs coming into force) and DCMS will pick up Q&As on from the industry.

We shared some feedback and questions already raised by our Members - please continue to send these in to us as there is still time to make changes to the detail in the negative SIs.

REMINDER RE GMTS

As part of the GMTS consultation the Commission sent out a data request on 16 April to holders of non-remote AGC, betting, bingo and casino licences seeking information on the number and type (by Gaming Machine manufacturer name and Gaming Machine name) of Cat B machines made available for use in reliance on their licence.

The Commission advised that they have only had a 50% response rate so far – with the deadline of 27 May pending - and asked the trade bodies to encourage submission, with the Commission also sending out reminders shortly. Apologies if you have already responded, but the Commission is unable to share details of whose response is outstanding, hence this generic reminder. You should also respond in the unlikely scenario that there is no perceived impact on your business.

As you know this data is key to providing the Commission with a robust picture of the number of Cat B machines that, under the changes proposed, would have to be removed if they cannot be updated to comply. One of our key arguments is that the proposals are not 'proportionate', therefore **we need you to evidence the full impact of these proposals.**

If you are among the 50% yet to respond we urge you to do so by 27th May (or liaise with Graham Burgin at the Commission or ourselves if you have any concerns/queries). For info, the original and reminder emails have been sent to the Primary Contact for the operators in scope (so you may not necessarily have seen it yourself).

ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENTS

We are aware some Members received Annual Assurance correspondence from the Commission for the first time and we sought clarification on the changed parameters. The Commission have advised:

1. Statements are slightly more specific than previous years: By being more specific and transparent with operators, in terms of drawing operators' attention to where we are finding specific compliance issues, it is hoped that this will focus operators' attention to these areas for review.

2. This year's process will break out non-remote and remote for

B2C: Previously online and land-based operators were together under one B2C template. This change has helped us target more specific requirements where sections of the LCCP only apply to either the remote or non-remote sector, for example customer interaction.

3. We have reduced the threshold for those in scope - GGY >£25m: Previously the threshold was >£50m. We have reduced it to align with the thresholds we use to group operators when considering our risk monitoring and assurance approach. This group of operators is also expected to receive an account manager in the coming year, and we believe the assurance statements will support effective initial conversations.

4. Operators are being asked to provide information which sets out how their board have been assured: This will enable us to understand the process and level of detail the board have been provided with which has enabled them to provide assurance or not in those areas. Going forward we are looking at different methods of receiving assurance from operators directly and understanding their internal assurance processes will enable us to consider this more effectively.

5. Assurance Statements have historically been sent out to the CEO of the business where we have this contact. If we don't have a contact, or a previous contact then they would be sent out to the primary contact on the operator's account.

Some Members received the request but have a GGY <£25m, The Commission confirmed that “*if an operator has a GGY of less than £25M they **do not need to complete** an Assurance Statement. Please contact the GC’s Assurance Statement inbox if they do not believe they need to complete an Assurance Statement so we can discuss this with them*”.

LA POLICY STATEMENTS

An updated list of LA Policy Statements can be found in the Members Area (in the LA Documents Folder). Local Authorities, following the statutory 3-yearly review of Policy Statements, should have published a January 2025-28 policy earlier this year. As you will see from the document, there are a number who:

- Have a current policy but are operating on a different 3-year timescale
- Have an out-of-date policy on their website
- Do not appear to have a policy at all on their website

We review this list every few months, but if you become aware of any updates in the interim, please let us know.
