



AIM TO PERMIT AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (CIAs)

- Members will have seen that both topics are getting are frequently mentioned, with recent examples including [Dawn Butler asking the PM for help in ending “aim to permit”](#) and PM responding *“We are looking at introducing cumulative impact assessments, like those already in place for alcohol licensing, and we will given councils stronger powers over the location and numbers of gambling outlets to help create safe, thriving high streets.”* Then at last week’s Peers for Gambling Reform Gambling summit the Minister said, “Government wanted to strengthen local authorities and was looking to introduce cumulative impact assessments”.
- You may also be aware that Lord Foster of Bath had [proposed amendments to the Planning and Instructure Bill](#) to introduce CIAs as part of spatial development strategies. These amendments were hotly debated in the Lords at 3am on Wednesday 10th September (!) You can watch the @20-minute debate on [Parliament TV](#) (scroll to 2,56 am on the RHS and press play). The debate ended with Lord Foster begrudgingly withdrawing the amendments, after the Government made it clear that CIA powers must sit with licensing authorities and not planning authorities otherwise there is a risk of inconsistencies between Gambling Statements of Policy and planning.
- The DCMS has confirmed that it is working with the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government to find a suitable legislative vehicle to introduce CIA so that they apply to the gambling licensing process.
- Over the past couple of weeks the GBG has provided the DCMS and the APPG on Gambling Harm with detailed evidence of the current powers available to licensing (and planning) officers and how they are being underused, particularly in terms of having out of date Policy Statements and not undertaking inspections, especially when so many LAs are charging the maximum licence

fees. We will continue use this evidence to push back on the calls to remove “aim to permit”.

- Interestingly the Commission’s [Tim Miller](#) made reference to LAs not using their powers at the Peers for Gambling Reform summit. *“But it (the Commission) cannot be the role of the national regulator to fill any gaps left in local regulation when less than half of licensing authorities are conducting any premises inspections, that the licensing fee funds them to perform.”*

GBG RESPONSE TO THE GAMBLING REFORM APPG INQUIRY

Thank you to those who provided feedback on our draft response to the Inquiry on the Future of Gambling Regulation in the UK. We have now submitted our response, which can be found in the Members Area of the Website (GBG Submissions folder).

MEMBERS COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

Last week we issued a short survey to Members seeking feedback on how we communicate with you. The same email also asks for confirmation of who from your organisation should be on the different GBG Working Groups. We would appreciate it if you could take 5 minutes to complete the survey, if you haven't already done so. Please also let us know of any changes to your representation on the Groups.

(Please note that the email went to a single nominated person in each Member organisation – please contact Amanda if you are unsure who has received it).

GBG's RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING CHARTER EXERCISE

Many thanks to the vast majority of Members who have responded to the exercise to see how Members are meeting the Principles of the GBG’s Charter, which was endorsed by the Institute of Licensing earlier this year. We will be providing an update to the GBG

Board in October on the feedback received, and details of who has responded, so there is time to respond if you haven't already. We will also provide an overview of the Charter to licensing authorities in the next edition of the IoL's LINK magazine which goes to all licensing officers.

LICENSING OFFICERS AT THE HIGH STREET HUB AT ARE EXPO 2025

The Institute of Licensing's [Summer LINK magazine](#) featured an article about licensing officers attending the GBG led sessions and meeting Members earlier this year in Manchester. We are working with the IoL on plans for ARE Expo 2026. Please get in touch if you are interested in being involved in the High Street Hub next year (April 28/29).

MARKETING OPPORTUNITY WITH THE IoL

The Institute of Licensing (IoL) has asked if any of our Members are interested in co-branding a pen at the [National Training Conference](#) in November. The event is attended by hundreds of Local Authority licensing officers from around the country. There is an IoL /partner branded pen in each of the @500 delegate bags.

We know that several GBG Members are involved the Conference already – whether speaking or exhibiting - but if anyone is interested in jointly sponsoring the pen with the IoL then please get in touch with Charlotte.

FLAWED GAMBLING SURVEY FOR GREAT BRITAIN COULD FUEL TAX HIKES AND STRICTER RULES

Members are encouraged to read a [Sigma article with Dan Waugh](#) flagging concerns over how the flawed GSGB prevalence figures risk fuelling calls for higher taxes and tougher restrictions.
