



## CHALLENGING MISLEADING INFORMATION

We have written to Sir Desmond Swayne, Chair of the recent [Westminster Hall debate on Gambling: Regulatory Reform](#) expressing concern about some of the misleading information that was cited. We have also flagged this with the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) on the back of the [OSR letter to the Department of Health and Social Care](#) specifically regarding references made about the OHID report that “incorrectly refer to harm *caused by* problem gambling, rather than being *associated with* gambling”.

## FUNDS RAISED FROM THE FIRST YEAR OF THE STATUTORY LEVY

Members may have seen the [recent Ministerial statement](#) announcing that just under £120 million has been collected. We are aware that the Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities (OHID) has started to communicate with third sector support services but that there are still major concerns about the eligibility criteria to apply for funding. We also know that OHID has engaged with local authority public health teams who will also be eligible for some of the funding and as a result the third sector is starting to engage directly with those public health teams.

## SARs BEST PRACTICE GUIDE

Members may have already seen that the UK Financial Intelligence Unit published updated [SARs Best Practice Guidance](#) in November (3 separate chapters, with chapter 2 focusing on Submitting a SAR).

To sign up for the SARs in Action magazine (which highlights examples of where SARs have been used in cases) contact: [UKFIUEngagement@nca.gov.uk](mailto:UKFIUEngagement@nca.gov.uk)

## YOUR CHANCE TO INFLUENCE THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES

As mentioned at the recent virtual coffee morning the Commission's has asked for feedback on two issues;

- The Government's commitment to reduce regulatory admin costs by 25% over the course of this Parliament. **Suggestions that GC has received so far include reviewing security audit arrangements and the continued requirement for data reporting put in place during Covid. They will give due consideration to these and other suggestions received.**
- Views on where you think the Commission should be focusing on 3-5yr horizon in terms of risks, opportunities etc Should this include crypto and AI? What else?
- **This is your chance to feed into the Commission's future plans in both areas so please let us have your ideas.**

## GBG SIGNS THE PARTNERSHIP CHARTER FOR THE NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY

We were delighted to have signed this Charter which was launched at the recent Institute of Licensing training conference. Gambling premises have an important role in safe, well run high street venues and stronger collaboration between operators, licensing teams and community partners is essential.

We will continue to engage with the IoL and other signatories to uphold the Charter's six Principles

- A thriving night time economy
  - An inclusive night time economy
  - A safe night time economy
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- A sustainable night time economy
- Support for community programmes
- A collaborative approach

The Charter echoes the principles of the Government's new [National Licensing Framework](#) for leisure and hospitality sectors, which arose from the joint industry and Government Licensing Taskforce for improved operating practices and stronger partnerships

## GET ON THE INVITE LIST FOR THE COMMISSION'S CONFERENCES AND FORUMS

We are aware that not all Members receive invites to the Commission's meetings. GC has advised that:

- invites for the Operator Engagement Forums at typically sent to the operational points of contact at licensees via mail chimp. So please check that your POC are up to date and that there is no issue with receiving mail chimp emails (are they are going into junk?). If as a licensee you are not receiving these invites, then let us know and we will advise GC accordingly.
- invites for the Spring Conference on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (where the focus is on data collection and the use of evidence to shape regulatory outcome), go to a wider list of attendees including non licensees and attendees from previous research focused events.

## GBG's VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to those who attended our inaugural coffee morning – complete with hot drinks and Christmas jumpers. We had positive feedback and will look to hold more next year.

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