



GBG'S RESPONSE TO THE CAT D GAMING MACHINE CONSULTATION

As we had previously advised, the GBG supported Bacta's response to the recently closed DCMS consultation on changes to Cat D machines. Our covering letter and Bacta's response is available on the Members area of the website.

WOLVERHAMPTON'S GAMBLING HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY

[Wolverhampton Council](#) is seeking views on how local residents are supported to mitigate risks of gambling harms through the council's identified priorities and focus areas. We will be discussing this, and the increasing involvement of public health, at next week's Land-Based Responsible Gambling Group meeting.

UPDATES ON MARTYN'S LAW

The consultation on the guidance on how the SIA (Security Industry Authority) will carry out its new regulatory responsibilities under the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, is expected to be published soon. This guidance will set expectations for notification, inspection, compliance activity and the regulator's approach to supporting duty holders. The SIA will be holding a series of engagement events when the consultation is published. We will update Members once those dates have been announced.

In the meantime, the Home Office has published additional information on the [ProtectUK website](#)

1. Infographics on the [premises](#) and [events](#) in scope and
2. A [Top tips preparation guide](#)

Additionally the [Institute of Licensing](#) has published its [guidance](#) for local authorities, which it will be keeping updated as we move towards the Act coming into effect in 2027.

STATUTORY LEVY FUNDING FOR LAS

Members may wish to note that local authority public health teams will be able to access monies from the statutory levy. In a recent Parliamentary Question, the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Housing Communities and Local Government stated that there will be Levy funding available for local authorities.

“Local authorities are well placed to play a central role in preventing gambling-related harms across local communities. An OHID-leg stocktake of local authority activity in this space indicated that whilst some activity is already underway there is appetite within local authorities to do more.

OHID is developing a fund for all upper tier local authorities across England which will aim to strengthen local capacity to tackle gambling related harm by facilitating improved understanding of local need and supporting the development of effective local and regional networks. This will be delivered alongside the Gambling Harms Prevention, Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) grant fund which will fund VCSE organisations to deliver prevention activity across England from April 2026 to March 2028.”

LONDON STRATEGIC LICENSING CONSULTATION

The Mayor of London is seeking views on a [London wide Strategic Licensing Policy](#), setting out how licensing should support economic growth hospitality culture and nightlife and expectations around partnership working and good practice.

Whilst licences issued under the GA05 are not in scope, it is interesting to note the Mayor's priorities for (alcohol and entertainment licensing), as there parallels to the approach that the industry would want to see for gambling.

1. Promote better alignment between the licensing and planning regimes
2. Ensure a proportionate use of cumulative impact assessments
3. Promote major events, socialising, social cohesion and community life
4. Contribute to revitalised high streets through meanwhile uses, pavement licensing and innovation for nightlife spaces
5. Ensure London remains a safe welcoming and inclusive city

The Mayor's consultation is open until **27 March 2026**.

LICENSING ACT 2023 GUIDANCE (LA03)

For those Members with alcohol licences, you will be interested to note that the Home Office has issued a further update to the LA03 statutory S182 guidance. On the back of adding in 1.18 about promoting growth, the following paragraph has now been added, encouraging consideration of local policies:

1.19 In coming to a decision on individual licensing applications, licensing committees should have regard to relevant local plans and strategies – such as those relating to town planning, the night-time economy, or business support – provided these considerations are consistent with the licensing objectives and the authority's published licensing policy. For example, licensing authorities in the area covered by the London Mayor should consider the London Plan 2021 which sets out a clear framework for the development of London over the next 20-25 years and the Mayor's vision for Good Growth.