



MEMBERS MEETING - 18 FEBRUARY

We have **Sylvia Oates, CEO of Six Till Six** as our guest speaker. She has vast experience working in the leisure, hospitality and night-time economy, including national schemes such as **Ask for Angela, Business Improvement Districts, Best Bar None and Purple Flag**. She will share her thoughts on these and how the gambling industry can engage, if not already, in these and other place making strategies. Please encourage relevant colleagues to attend to hear Sylvia.

We will also be discussing the [operating licence fees consultation](#) (circulated last week) on the 18th.

IoL's ENDORSEMENT OF THE GBG'S RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING CHARTER

The most recent Institute of Licensing's [LINK magazine](#) featured an article about the GBG's Charter, which the IoL endorsed last year. The LINK magazine goes out to all licensing officers.

Through our partnership with the IoL, we have a regular feature in this publication, with contributions over the past few years from GBG Members, including Buzz, Crown, Game Nation, Innovative Technology and Welcome Break, discussing different aspects of social responsibility and looking after customers. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved in a future article.

LICENSING APPLICATIONS - CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO GROWTH

For those Members who have alcohol licences, you will be interested to note that at the end of 2025, the Home Office updated the statutory guidance for the Licensing Act 2023 to include the line:

- 1.18 When making licensing decisions, all licensing authorities should consider the need to promote growth and deliver economic benefits.

The Home Office stated *“The update to the Section 182 Guidance has been added to help ensure that, when determining licence applications and considering any conditions that may apply, Licensing Authorities have in mind the need to support the development of a thriving hospitality sector while still upholding the existing statutory licensing objectives.”*

NHS GAMBLING HARMS TREATMENT VCSE GRANT FUND OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

NHS England has [announced details](#) of how Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations can apply for the Gambling Harms Treatment VCSE Grant Fund.

Developed by NHS England and administered by the Government Grants Managed Service (GGMS), it will provide up to £20million to VCSE organisations in 2026-27 to fund the delivery of treatment and support services in England, to ensure that those affected by gambling-related harms can continue to access VCSE sector services during 2026-27, whilst Integrated Care Boards look to implement longer-term commissioning arrangements for April 2027.

ILLEGAL UNDERAGE SUNBED USE

For those Members with an interest in the sunbed sector, the Government [has announced](#) that it will consult on strengthening sunbed safeguards in Spring 2026, including banning unsupervised sessions and introducing mandatory ID checks to verify users are over 18.

SOME KEY MEETINGS THIS MONTH

- 5th - GBG meeting with LBO members
 - 9th - GBG MSA Group
 - 12th - GBG attending the National Licensing Forum
 - 16th - GBG Board, guest speaker Nick Arron, Poppleston Allen
 - 18th - Monthly catch-up with DCMS's land-based team
 - 18th - GBG Members meeting, guest speaker Sylvia Oates
 - 23rd - GBG attending meeting with Commission regarding GMTS
 - 24th - GBG land-based responsible gambling group
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