

5TH AUGUST 2025



CAT C OR D MACHINES OUT OF ACTION?

At recent GC compliance visits the impact on the 80:20 ratio when a Cat C/D is out of order has arisen.

The Commission has made it clear that if the 80:20 ratio is incorrect, even in the short term, then this would be a direct breach of the Regulations. This means that where there is a Cat C/D which is out of order or has a fault, then the AGC or bingo premises should temporarily switch off or disable (so that that a customer cannot turn it back on) the necessary number of Cat B machines to correct the ratio and ensure the 80:20 ratio is maintained

NEW GBG WORKING GROUP

We are setting up a Security & Safety Group which will look at the risk to, and security of assets such as property, cash, and perhaps even employees. The Group will raise awareness to particular trends and crime, best practices, crime prevention, and maybe even health & safety. **Please get in touch if you have yet to express an interest in being involved.**

LICENSING (ACT 2003) POLICY SPRINT - TASKFORCE REPORT PUBLISHED

Earlier this year a licensing task force with representatives from government, industry, police and local government was charged with making recommendations to deliver changes to the Licensing Act 2003 licensing system which will foster vibrant hospitality, night-time economy, creative and cultural industries.

[The report](#) makes several specific gaming (in pubs) recommendations:

Automatic right to 4 Category C machines (currently 2) for licensed premises. Manual payments for gaming notifications/permits. An immediate stake and prize review for Category C machines. These are simple, no cost, pro-growth changes that would enable pubs and other licensed premises to maintain the real value of an important income stream.

Whilst the report's 10 key priority recommendations relate to the Licensing Act 2003, a number could equally be applied to gambling legislation, which was published only 2 years after the Licensing Act. Indeed, the Taskforce suggested that other licensed regimes including betting shops, could benefit from a similar sprint process.)

The report sets out 10 priority recommendations – some of which could work equally well if they were applied to gambling legislation including recommendations

- **Recommendation 1.** A National Licensing Policy Framework : designed to ensure statutory consistency and a harmonised national policy approach across licensing authorities while still allowing local decision making and determination of applications. This should include:
 - A requirement that licensing decisions and conditions be ‘necessary and proportionate’
 - Provision of general guidance and training for licensees, trade, police and licensing officers
 - A central online portal so submit applications to licensing authorities
 - Ensuring licensing authority deadlines are met for processing various processes and licence changes
 - Better links between planning and licensing
 - Local authorities to create a local Night Time Economy strategy, aligning and building on the national strategy
- **Recommendation 2.** Hold a one-time (twentieth anniversary) licensing condition ‘amnesty’ to modernise and streamline licences
- **Recommendation 3.** Make hearings and appeals more proportionate, streamlined and backed by clear evidence.
- **Recommendation 4.** Remove the hard-copy local newspaper advertising requirement

- **Recommendation 8.** Develop an arbitration, evidence and data protocol for licensing decisions so that objections are backed by clear, non-discriminatory, and transparent evidence.

DRAFT GUIDE TO FIRE SAFETY MEASURES FOR PERSONS WITH DUTIES: OFFICES AND SHOPS

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) is seeking views on amendments to the Guide to Fire Safety Measures for Persons with Duties: Offices and Shops. We have an e copy only, it does not appear to be on the MHCLG website.

MHCLG has advised GBG that *“The offices and shops guide would likely contain applicable advice for betting shops, adult gaming centres and bingo halls. However, for adult gaming centres and bingo halls guidance on fire safety in places of assembly may be more applicable (we will be circulating updated draft version of this guide for comment in the future). For smaller premises it is worth noting that the small non-domestic premises guide can also be used. Let us know if have any views on the specific types of risk associated with these types of premises that you think should be reflected in the guidance more generally”.*

If you (or colleagues) are interested in seeing the draft guide, please get in touch and we can forward it on.

HOW ARE YOU MEETING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GBG'S RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING CHARTER?

On the 24th July we sent out an email to one individual in each GBG Member organisation seeking feedback on how you are meeting the Principles of GBG's Responsible Gambling Charter which are relevant to your business.

The deadline is Friday 8th August.

The GBG Board will receive an update on this monitoring exercise, so please respond if you have yet to do so. Thanks to those who have responded already,
