



## MGD & SOCIAL HARM

On the 30<sup>th</sup> June the Social Market Foundation (SMF) is holding a [panel event](#) “to discuss reforms to Machine Gaming Duty in the context of the rapid expansion of AGCs and high-stakes gaming machines on the UK’s high streets.”

GBG and the other trade bodies are meeting next week to discuss a shared approach to this SMF session, and we will update Members after that call.

## RECENT GAMBLING RELATED PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS (PQs) OF NOTE:

### a. Gambling Impact Assessment (GIA) Guidance

Asked when GIA guidance will be available for licensing authorities, the Minister Ian Murray said “ *The Gambling Commission produces statutory guidance for licensing authorities on their role and responsibilities in gambling regulation. The Commission will consult and issue guidance to support the introduction of GIAs in due course*”

### b. Financial Risk Assessments

Asked about the progress made on Financial Risk Assessments following the Commission’s Board meeting in May, the Minister Ian Murray stated this week : “*it is*

*for the Gambling Commission to decide whether to implement Financial Risk Assessments (FRA). DCMS supports the policy intent behind FRAs and has had regular engagement with the Gambling Commission on this issue. The Gambling Commission has confirmed that its Board met at the end of May and the agenda included consideration of the extensive evidence base connected with FRAs. The Commission Board has not yet fully completed its assessment of that evidence. The Commission has confirmed that it will communicate further in due course.”*

### **c. Gambling & Suicide**

A [letter from the Office for National Statistics](#) set out its response to a PQ seeking to know how many people took their own lives in each year between 2015 and 2025 where the primary cause was addiction to gambling.

With the caveat that the data they hold is likely to underestimate the true number, the ONS letter states that:

- Medical certificates of cause of death (MCCD), where conditions are coded using an international classification, show one death since 2001 where the code for pathological gambling was mentioned on the MCCD.
- Coroners' reports show 21 records of suicide identified between 2001 and 2016 inclusive where gambling was mentioned on a death certificate where the underlying cause of death was suicide.

## **GAMING MACHINES IN PUBS DURING THE WORLD CUP**

Members are reminded that

1. The automatic entitlement to two gaming machines and any licensed premises gaming machine permits will be active whenever the relevant alcohol licence for the premises authorises the sale or supply of alcohol.

2. Government has extended licensing hours for pubs in England and Wales for any World Cup home nation games and most Licensing Boards in Scotland have agreed extended hours for Scotland's games.
3. Therefore gaming machines in pubs can be played during those extended hours, subject to any conditions on individual licences, and appropriate staff supervision.
4. Where a pub is operating a Temporary Event Notice for extended hours (or to add any other temporary permissions), all gaming machines MUST be switched off.

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE GAMBLING INDUSTRY

On Wednesday 17 June 2026 the Lords Liaison Committee will hold a follow up session considering the Social and Economic Impact of the Gambling Industry. The Committee will hear from a range of contributors including Grainne Hurst, Dan Waugh as well as the Baroness Twycross and the Commission. [This link](#) includes details of how to watch the session.

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