GBG Newsletter - 13 November 2026

Gambling & Public Health

The GBG Exec and several Members attended an event in London last week hosted by Andrew Tottenham, Vaughan Williams and Dan Waugh to discuss the increasing challenges facing the industry and options to address and thwart them in an evidence-based way. Andrew and colleagues intend to hold a gambling research event in London, with a provisional date of 1 February 2027, please hold the date if you are interested. We will share more details when available.

The High Street & Gambling Premises

As previously shared, the Government Department MHCLG has published Hope on the High Street setting out the Government's plan for the high street including reference to GIAs (para 60 & 61).

In September the GBG submitted evidence to the MLCLG's current inquiry into revitalising the high street and as a result we were invited to give oral evidence to the Committee last month. A huge thanks to Nindi Dhanjal, Head of Compliance at City Gaming Limited (Game Nation) who spoke a the Inquiry on behalf of The GBG. The Committee will be holding more sessions next year prior to publishing its report.

Members may also be interested to see the placemaking report published by UKH setting out their blueprint for the high street.

Institute of Licensing's National Training Conference

The GBG will be joined by Steve Smyth - Rank Group and Richard Dutton - ELIAS Partners, at the IoL conference to address licensing authorities about the role of facial recognition technology in protecting vulnerable customers, supporting enforcement and ensuring its use is lawful and proportionate.

Nindi from Game Nation will feature on a panel focusing on "Revitalisation of High Streets: The Role of Licensing and Regulation in Place-Shaping, chaired by Kate Nicholls – National Chair of the IoL.

Elizabeth Speed, Novomatic will give licensing officers an operator's insight into AGCs, and Nick Arron, Poppleston & Allen will be talking about the latest developments on GIAs and the removal of aim to permit.

Peter and Charlotte will be at the conference in Stratford upon Avon on Thursday 19 November and hope to see some of you at the various gambling sessions.

Martyn's Law

This week GBG attended a meeting where the Security Industry Authority (SIA) presented on Martyn's Law. The SIA has now published a planning tool for those premises in the standard tier and an enhanced tier template, and will publish "how to guides" before and after Christmas but encouraged those premises in scope to use the statutory guidance and tools issued to date to gear up for the new requirements.

The Home Office is in discussions with DCMS to ensure that the necessary changes are made to reflect the provisions designed to protect sensitive information submitted in gambling premises applications.

Illegal Gambling Taskforce

The Minister, Vicky Foxcroft has responded to a number of PQs recently about the work of the Taskforce: *"The Illegal Gambling Taskforce consists of over 50 individuals across the ministerial taskforce and its three subgroups. As set out in the Illegal Gambling Taskforce Terms of Reference, the subgroups focus on advertising of illegal gambling, preventing payments associated with illegal gambling, and improving cross agency collaboration to tackle illegal gambling. The ministerial taskforce has met twice with a further meeting intended before the end of the year. The subgroups meet more frequently."*

Ofcom

Members with online businesses will be interested to note that Ofcom has published rapid assessment of what highly effective age assurance looks like for determining whether someone is aged 16 or over. The assessment was undertaken at the request of Government to help inform parliamentary debate on proposed age-related restrictions online. It sets out the age assurance methods that Ofcom considers are currently capable of being highly effective, alongside wider considerations including privacy, security and accessibility.

Statutory Levy Funding

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) has allocated over £39m of funding to from the gambling harms prevention and resilience fund to the 40 successful voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations. A further £12m had already been allocated to local councils to help them prevent and reduce gambling-related harms.

GBG's LinkedIn Page

Members are encouraged to follow GBG on LinkedIn and 'like' our articles to help us

disseminate information and positive stories to an even wider audience. Last month we gained over 30 new followers on the back of the MGD related posts, taking us to over 1240 followers.

New London Mayoral Powers under the Licensing Act 2003

For those members in London with alcohol licences, the new mayoral powers came into effect on 3rd November and the statutory s182 guidance was updated accordingly (See section 18). The use of these powers will be closely monitored as there is provision for them to be rolled out to other Mayoral areas.

GAMBLING BUSINESS GROUP
Working for a brighter future