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Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

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*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please
let us know if your language choice is Welsh.*



**Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief
Executive's Directorate**

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /
643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Wednesday, 3 November 2021

Dear Councillor,

LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee will be held remotely - via Microsoft Teams on
Tuesday, 9 November 2021 at 10:00.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 4
To receive for approval the minutes of 25/05/2021
4. Gambling Act 2005 Statement Of Licensing Principles 2022-2025 5 - 52
5. Urgent Items
To consider any other item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Rule 4 of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: Please note: Due to the current requirement for social distancing this meeting will not be held at its usual location. This will be a virtual meeting and Members and Officers will be attending remotely. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yours faithfully

K Watson

Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

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Councillors:

TH Beedle
RJ Collins
PA Davies
A Hussain
RM James

Councillors

B Jones
MJ Kearn
DRW Lewis
JE Lewis
JR McCarthy

Councillors

AA Pucella
G Thomas
KJ Watts
JE Williams

Present

Councillor DRW Lewis – Chairperson

TH Beedle	RJ Collins	PA Davies	A Hussain
RM James	B Jones	MJ Kearns	JE Lewis
AA Pucella	G Thomas	JE Williams	

Officers:

Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Andrea Lee	Senior Lawyer
Michael Pitman	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Yvonne Witchell	Team Manager Licensing

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

25. LICENSING ACT 2003 AND GAMBLING ACT 2005 DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

The Team Manager Licensing presented a report on the proposed arrangements for the authorisation of officers under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 and confirmed arrangements for the formation of sub-committees following the Annual Meeting of Council 2021.

The Team Manager Licensing explained that in the interests of effective performance, responsibility for authorising officers to administer the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005, would be delegated to the Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services for the Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services to institute proceedings under those Acts.

It was also proposed that, where appropriate, the Chief Officer – Legal, HR and Regulatory Services, the Team Manager Licensing (Bridgend and Vale), the Senior Licensing Officer (Technical), Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer and Licensing Policy Officer would be authorised to acknowledge and issue Notices relating to Temporary Event Notices; to issue, refuse, suspend licences, registrations, certificates, permits and notices, to implement the relevant provisions in respect of offences, reviews or other requirements; pursuant to any of the rules, regulations and/or Orders made under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 (as amended). The authorisation in respect of the licensing officers would only take effect when they were made available to Bridgend County Borough Council in accordance with section 113 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Team Manager Licensing explained that Committee was also asked to approve the existing arrangement of the formation of further Sub-Committees consisting of three Members of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee to determine applications under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005.

It was proposed that the Licensing Act 2003 Sub-Committees were chaired by the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee where possible.

She added that in the event that the Chair or Vice Chair were not able to attend, a chair person would be elected.

RESOLVED: That the Committee exercised its delegated authority to:

- Authorise the Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services to institute proceedings under the Acts detailed in the report.
- Authorise the Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services, the Team Manager Licensing (Bridgend and Vale), the Senior Licensing Officer (Technical), Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer, and Licensing Policy Officer to acknowledge and issue Notices relating to Temporary Event Notices; to issue, refuse, suspend licences, registrations, certificates, permits and notices, to implement the relevant provisions in respect of offences, reviews or other requirements; pursuant to any of the rules, regulations and/or Orders made under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 (as amended).
- Approve the arrangements for the formation of Sub-Committees set out in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4 of the report.

26. URGENT ITEMS

None

The meeting closed at 10:15

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE

9 NOVEMBER 2021

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES, HR AND CORPORATE POLICY

GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES 2022-2025

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to endorse the publication of the Council's Statement of Licensing Principles for the next triennial period 2022 to 2025, and to forward the policy to Cabinet and Council for final approval.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This proposal is a regulatory function which is required to effectively discharge the functions of the authority under the Gambling Act 2005.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Gambling Commission is the unified regulator for gambling in Great Britain and it is responsible for granting operating and personal licences for commercial gambling operators. However, the responsibility for licensing land based premises, as well as functions in relation to issuing permits and registrations, rests with local authorities. The Gambling Commission issues statutory Guidance on the manner in which local authorities are to exercise their functions under the Gambling Act 2005.
- 3.2 The Council, as a licensing authority, must publish, on a three year basis, a Statement of Licensing Principles governing the policy, regulation and decision making process relating to gambling premises. A formal consultation must be undertaken before a new statement is published. Approval of the Statement of Licensing Principles is a Council function.
- 3.3 This report outlines the response to the consultation and makes recommendations for revisions to the Statement of Licensing Policy, the approval of which is a Council function. The proposed amendments are shown highlighted in red within the document. The proposed review has taken into account the unprecedented impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on businesses which provide gambling facilities.
- 3.4 The Council as a licensing authority carries out a number of regulatory functions including to:
- licence premises for gambling activities (betting shops, bingo, adult gaming centres)
 - grant permits for gaming and gaming machines in clubs and miners' welfare institutes
 - regulate gaming and gaming machines in alcohol-licensed premises

- grant permits to family entertainment centres (FECs) for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines
- consider occasional use notices for betting at tracks
- register small societies' lotteries.

3.5 The Act sets out three licensing objectives which are central to regulating gambling. These are:

- preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime
- ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

3.6 The authority cannot take into account other considerations such as moral or ethical objections to gambling. In addition, the Council has no powers to regulate remote or online gambling and cannot therefore adopt policy guidelines in respect of online gambling via the internet, telephone or television.

3.7 The Council's primary obligation under Section 153 (1) of the Gambling Act 2005 is to permit the use of premises for gambling insofar as it thinks that to do so is:

- a) In accordance with relevant codes of practice issued by the Gambling Commission;
- b) In accordance with guidance issued by the Commission;
- c) Reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and
- d) In accordance with the Licensing Authority Statement of Policy subject to a) to c) above:

The Guidance also emphasises that in seeking to encourage consistency across licensing areas, the Commission does not seek to fetter the discretion that authorities have under the Act to make decisions which reflect local circumstances.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 In normal circumstances, it would be possible to review trends and issues which may inform future policy development. However, the period 2020-2021 has seen unprecedented measures in place with gambling premises subject to lockdown. In addition, in December 2020 the Minister for Sport, Tourism and Heritage announced a Review of the Gambling Act 2005 Terms of Reference and Call for Evidence which overlaps with the current three-year review process.

4.2 The triennial review of the Statement of Licensing Principles must still be undertaken, but in the light of the impact of the pandemic on premises, the absence of the reporting of local trends, and the impending review, it was felt that a more balanced review could be undertaken in 2022 to assess the impact on businesses and whether

any policy changes are necessary. The approach was set out in the consultation document and a copy of the draft Statement of Principles is attached at Appendix A.

- 4.3 The consultation was published on the Council's website between 6 August 2021 and 10 September 2021 and notice given to:
- Responsible authorities including police, safeguarding and community safety
 - Trade representatives
 - Problem Gambling Organisations
 - BCBC Members
 - Town and Community Councils
- 4.4 A response was received from Gosschalks Solicitors who act for The Betting and Gaming Council (BGC), which was created in 2019 as the new standards body for the UK's regulated betting and gaming industry. This includes betting shops, online betting and gaming businesses, bingo and casinos. Gosschalks response outlines that the mission of the BGC is to champion industry standards in betting and gaming to ensure an enjoyable, fair and safe betting and gaming experience for all of its members' customers. A copy of the response is attached at Appendix B.
- 4.5 The response seeks one amendment which relates to redundant terminology which is not longer used within the Gambling Commissions's statutory guidance to local authorities:

“Considerations specific to the draft statement of principles 2022 - 2025

On behalf of the BGC, we welcome the acknowledgment that the Council has received no evidence of new trends or concerns in the land based market it regulates, that there has been no increase in problem gambling rates and in the circumstances, the Council proposed not to change its policy.

The policy as drafted is light-touch and the only alteration that we suggest is to paragraph 2.3 and 2.3.1. The heading to paragraph 2.3 is “Primary Gambling Activity and Definition of Premises” and in paragraph 2.3.1 there is a reference to “Primary Gambling Activity”. This is a term no longer used by the Gambling Commission and does not now appear in the guidance to licensing authorities. In the circumstances, we suggest that these references are amended.

Conclusion

On behalf of the BGC, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on your draft statement of principles and hope that these comments above are useful.”

- 4.6 As this is a redundant term, it is recommended that paragraphs 2.3 and 2.3.1 are amended and the draft Statement has been updated accordingly.
- 4.7 No other responses were received from statutory consultees or via the website consultation.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 The report content has no direct effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This report relates to a regulatory function, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from the report.

9. Recommendation(s)

9.1 Committee is recommended to endorse that the Statement of Gambling Principles, incorporating the amendments highlighted within Appendix A together with the additional amendment in 4.6 above, is forwarded to Cabinet and Council for approval and publication in accordance with the regulations.

Kelly Watson

Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

Date: 3 November 2021

Contact officer: Yvonne Witchell
Team Manager Licensing

Telephone: (01656) 643643

Email: licensing@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend CF31 4WB

Background documents: None

GAMBLING ACT 2005: BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol



STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

2022-2025

This document is also available in Welsh
Other formats available on request.

Version

Date comes into effect:

References in red relate to proposed additions to the document or typographical amendments

PREFACE

Gambling and betting are regulated by the Gambling Commission, whose duties include the licensing of operators and individuals involved in providing gambling and betting facilities. Bridgend County Borough Council, in its role as a licensing authority has a duty under the Act, to licence premises where gambling takes place and to licence certain other activities, including the registration of small society lotteries.

This document sets out how the licensing authority intends to approach this task. It should be noted that this policy statement will not override the right of any person to make an application, to make representations about an application, or to apply for a review of a licence. Every matter will be considered on its merits and according to the statutory requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.

The Gambling Act 2005 sets out how gambling in Great Britain is regulated. It came fully into force in September 2007, and covers arcades, betting, bingo, casinos, gaming machines, society lotteries, and remote gambling (including online gambling). However, the Council, as the licensing authority, is only responsible for the administration and enforcement of gambling premises and has no jurisdiction over online forms of bingo, betting or other online games or platforms. The 2005 Act also created and set the functions and objectives of the Gambling Commission as the principal regulator in the United Kingdom.

The Council must review its Statement of Principles in respect of gambling at least every three years. Since the last review the main legislative change has been to cut the maximum stake on B2 gaming machines in betting shops from £100 to £2.

In December 2020 the Minister for Sport, Tourism and Heritage announced a Review of the Gambling Act 2005 Terms of Reference and Call for Evidence which overlaps with the current three year review process.

The background papers indicate that the Review will be led by Ministers at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, with engagement from across government, the Gambling Commission, the industry, health and charitable sector, those with lived experience of gambling harm, and other stakeholders.

After the initial 16 week call for evidence, the government will assess the evidence presented, alongside other data, with the aim of setting out conclusions and any proposals for reform in a white paper in 2022.

The period 2020 to 2021 has also been unprecedented in terms of the Coronavirus pandemic, where gambling premises have been closed for periods of time during lockdowns. The UK government's assessment as part of the review notes that the gross gambling yield (GGY - amount staked minus winnings paid out) for online gambling in Great Britain grew 18% in real terms between

2015/16 and 2018/19.

Much of this growth was channel shift from land based gambling (the market overall grew just 4% in that period) and in September 2019 the GGY generated by remote gambling overtook that of land based gambling for the first time (excluding lotteries).

Since the last local review, the Council has received no evidence of new trends or concerns in the land based market it regulates. The Government review highlights that the steady industry growth and shift to online have seen neither a marked increase in overall gambling participation, nor an increase in population problem gambling rates.

That being the case, it is proposed that the Council undertake a statutory consultation to renew its Statement of Principles with no changes in policy, and for a further review to be undertaken once the Governments White Paper and timetable for any reform is available.

CONTACT DETAILS

Licensing
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

licensing@bridgend.gov.uk

Telephone: 01656 643643

Website: www.bridgend.gov.uk

The licensing authority has made every effort to ensure accuracy of this document and any typographic errors should be drawn to our attention. Any information contained within is not intended to be a substitute for independent legal advice. Should you have any comments or feedback once this Statement is published please send them to the above address.

Other websites of interest:

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

www.gamcare.org.uk

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To be amended following consultation

1.0 INTRODUCTORY SECTION

1.1 The Licensing Objectives

A fundamental principle of this Statement is that in carrying out its functions the Bridgend County Borough Council licensing authority (“the licensing authority”) will perform its functions in accordance with the three licensing objectives set out in the Gambling Act 2005 (“the Act”).

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime.
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

This licensing authority will aim to permit the use of premises for gambling so far as it is satisfied that the application is:

- a. in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission under Section 24 of the Act;
- b. in accordance with any relevant Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission under Section 25 of the Act (referred to within this document as “the Guidance”);
- c. reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives subject to a. and b. above ; and
- d. in accordance with the authority’s Statement of Licensing Policy published under Section 349 of the Act subject to a. to c. above.

- 1.2 This Statement will not override the right of any person to make an application, make representations about an application or apply for a review of a licence, as each will be considered on its own merits and according to the statutory requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.

Summary of matters dealt with in this Statement

The regulatory functions for which the licensing authority is responsible are:

- Licensing of premises for gambling activities
- Consideration of notices given for the temporary use of premises for gambling
- Granting of permits for gaming and gaming machines in clubs and miners’ welfare institutes
- Granting of permits to family entertainment centres (FEC) for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines
- Granting of permits for prize gaming
- Consideration of occasional use notices for betting at tracks

- Registration of small societies' lotteries.
- Premises Licence Reviews
- Information provision to the Gambling Commission
- Maintenance of statutory registers

1.3 This Statement relates to all those licensable premises, notices, permits and registrations identified as falling within the provisions of the Act, which include:-

- Casinos;
- Bingo Premises;
- Betting Premises;
- Tracks;
- Adult Gaming Centres;
- Family Entertainment Centres (FEC's);
- Unlicensed FEC gaming machine permits
- Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits;
- Prize Gaming and Prize Gaming Permits;
- Temporary and Occasional Use Notices;
- Registration of small society lotteries;
- Notifications from alcohol licensed premises for the use of two or less gaming machines;
- Provisional Statements.

It should be noted that local licensing authorities are not involved in licensing remote gambling, and this activity is regulated by the Gambling Commission through Operator Licences.

1.4 Geographical area under which the Bridgend County Borough Council licensing authority will exercise functions under the Gambling Act 2005

With its Bristol Channel coastline and mix of urban and rural communities, the County Borough lies at the geographical heart of South Wales and has a population of about 147,539*. Its land area of 28,500 hectares stretches 20km from east to west and occupies the Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore valleys. The largest town is Bridgend (pop: 58380****), followed by Maesteg (pop: 20,612 **) and the seaside resort of Porthcawl (pop: 15,813***).

* https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/admin/wales/W06000013__bridgend/

**<http://www.maestegcouncil.org/about-maesteg/>

***<http://citypopulation.info>

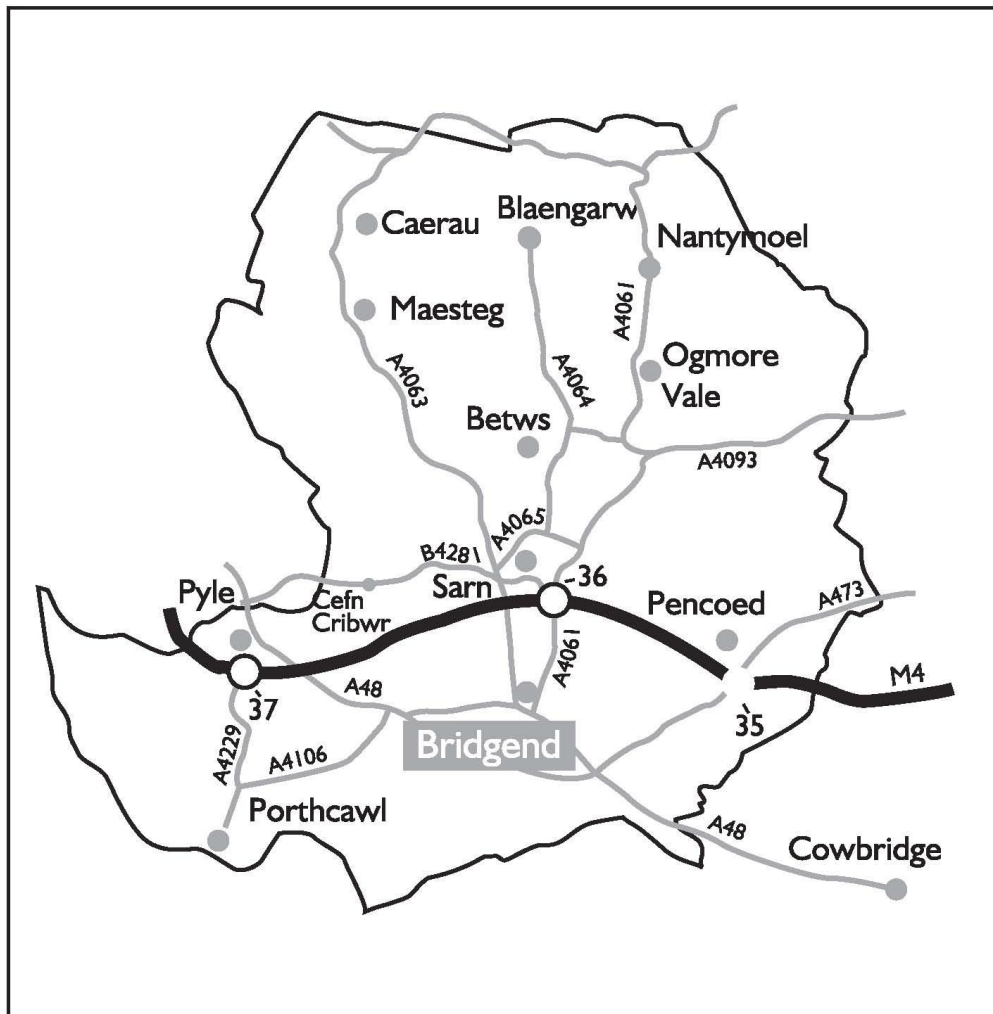
****<http://citypopulation.info>

The Council's corporate and strategic themes will vary during the course of the validity of this Statement. Details of the current corporate themes and strategies can be accessed here:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/council-priorities-and-performance/>

The geographical area to which this policy applies is:

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH



BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB.
TEL: 01656 643643 FAX: 01656 668126

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BRID/BRZ

The authority has undertaken a local analysis of the gambling profile of Bridgend County Borough Council.

Premises/Permit Type	Number of premises 2018	Number of premises 2021	Comments
Betting	17	12	18+
Bingo	2	2	18+
Adult Gaming Centre	6	6	18+
Family Entertainment Centre	4	3	Mixed access with 18+ segregated area
Registered Members Club	26	18	
Licensed Premises	9	2	Licensed premises with more than 2 machines
Licensed Premises	83	66	Automatic entitlement for two machines
Family Entertainment centre (permit)	12	5	Typically Seaside venues –all age access Porthcawl is a seaside location and a number of the arcades referred to are located in this area. All ages can access these venues
Total Number of premises where gambling available	159	114	

There were 120 local groups and societies registered to conduct lotteries for fundraising purposes, which has decreased to @68.

The authority does not maintain statistics on the impact of gambling on the locality. Attention is drawn however, to the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for Wales which has highlighted the call for further research on the impact of gambling on health. Whilst there is no specific detail or policy impact on the 2021 consultation, stakeholders should be aware of this local development in Wales. The report is available at:

<http://gov.wales/docs/phhs/publications/cmo-report2017en.pdf>

Subject to the statutory consultation which will follow the 2021 review of this Statement of Gambling Policy there are no significant trends emerging to warrant any significant policy changes for the period 2022-2025.

1.6 Designation of the body competent to advise on protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling (Section 157)

The licensing authority will consider the following principles when designating the body competent to advise on protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling:

- The need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the licensing authority's area,
- The need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected persons, rather than any particular vested interest group.

Having regard to the Commission's Guidance, the authority designates the Bridgend Children's Directorate, Safeguarding and Family Support as the most appropriate body to carry out this function.

1.7 How the Council will determine who qualifies as an Interested Party

Interested Parties can make representations to the licensing authority about licensing applications, or apply for a review of an existing licence. An interested party is someone who:

- Lives sufficiently close to the premises and is likely to be affected by the authorised activities or
- Has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities or
- Represents persons in either category above

When exercising the powers under section 158 of the Act to determine whether a person is an interested party in relation to a premises licence, or an application for a premises licence, the licensing authority will follow the Guidance to Licensing Authorities issued by the Gambling Commission (hereafter referred to in this document as "the Guidance" and comprising all subsequent amendments). It will consider whether a person is an interested party

with regard to a particular premises on a case by case basis, judging each on its merits and no rigid rule will be applied in the decision making process.

The principles which may be applied in each case are:

- The size and nature of the premises
- The distance of the premises from the person making the representations
- The potential impact of the premises (number of customers, routes likely to be taken by those visiting the establishment)
- The circumstances of the person(s) making the representations. (These are not the personal circumstances of the complainant but the interests of the complainant which may be relevant to the distance from the premises).

In determining whether a person has a business interest that could be affected, the licensing authority may take into account, amongst other things,

- The size of the premises
- The “catchment area” of the premises (how far people travel to visit the premises)
- Whether the person making the representation has business interests in this “catchment area” that might be affected

The authority considers that the following groups come within the category of those who could represent persons living close to the premises, or have business interests that may be affected by it as:

- Trade associations
- Residents’ and Tenants’ associations
- Charities
- Faith Groups
- Medical Practices
- School Head or Governor
- Community Group

The licensing authority will consider persons who are democratically elected as interested parties for example Councillors, AM’s and MP’s or Town, Community or Parish Councillors.

Other than these however, this authority will generally require written evidence that a person/body (e.g. an advocate / relative) ‘represents’ someone who either lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities and/or has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities.

If individuals wish to approach Councillors to ask them to represent their views, care should be taken that the Councillors are not part of the Licensing Committee dealing with the licence application. If there are any doubts then the party should contact Licensing and Registration Section for information.

All parties are reminded that representations must relate to the licensing objectives. If an interested party has difficulty in making representations, they should contact the Licensing Section for advice.

Due consideration will be given to all relevant representations unless they are considered to be frivolous, vexatious or repetitious. The principles which will be applied in the decision making process are likely to be:

- Who is making the representation and whether there is a history of making representations that are not relevant
- Whether the representation relates to the licensing objectives
- Whether the representation is specific to the premises that are subject to the application

Any such decision will be made objectively and not on the basis of any political judgement. Where a representation is rejected a written statement of reasons will be issued.

In the absence of any regulations or statutory provision representations should ideally:

- Indicate the name and address of the person or organisation making the representation
- Indicate the premises to which the representation relates
- Indicate the proximity of the premise to the person making the representation
- Set out the reasons for making the representation
- Advise the licensing authority if any special assistance is required in submitting or making the representation in writing or orally
- Electronic submission of representations is deemed to be equal to written submission

1.8 Representations

Persons making representations should be aware that full disclosure of representations will be made available to applicants and published as part of Council reports to allow for transparency and negotiation between parties. In the event of a hearing, all representations will form part of a public report unless the person making the representations can satisfy the Council that there is a compelling reason not to do so.

Interested parties and responsible authorities are reminded that the Act does not include the prevention of public nuisance as a licensing objective. This is dealt with under separate legislation. The only representations that are likely to be relevant are those that relate to the licensing objectives, or which raise

issues set out in this policy, the Guidance or Gambling Commission Codes of practice.

1.9 Responsible Authorities

The responsible authorities for this licensing authority are:

<p>Licensing Department Community Safety Partnership Bridgend Police Station Brackla Street Bridgend CF31 1BZ</p> <p>Phone: 01656 679507</p> <p>Adran Twydded Partneriaeth Diogelwch yn y Gymuned Gorsdaf Heddlu Pen-y-bont Stryd Bracla Pen-y-bont CF31 1BZ</p> <p>Ffôn: 01656 679507</p>	
<p>Licensing Bridgend County Borough Council Civic Offices Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB</p> <p>Phone: 01656 643643</p> <p>Trwyddedu Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Y Swyddfeydd Dinesig Stryd yr Angel Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. CF31 4WB</p> <p>Ffôn: 01656 643643</p> <p>licensing@bridgend.gov.uk</p>	<p>Development Group Communities Directorate Bridgend County Borough Council Civic Offices, Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB</p> <p>Phone: 01656 643643</p> <p>Y Grwp Datblygu Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gymunedau Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr CF31 4WB</p> <p>Ffôn: 01656 643643</p> <p>planning@bridgend.gov.uk</p>

<p>Bridgend County Borough Council Children's Directorate Safeguarding and Family Support Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB</p>	<p>Health and Safety Executive Government Buildings Phase 1 Ty Glas Llanishen Cardiff, CF14 5SH</p> <p>Health and Safety Executive Government Buildings Rhan 1, Adeiladau'r Llywodraeth, Tŷ Glas, Llanishen, Caerdydd CF14 5SH</p>
<p>South Wales Fire & Rescue Service Forest View Business Park Llantrisant CF72 8LX</p> <p>Phone:01443 232000</p> <p>Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub De Cymru Parc Busnes Fforest View Llantrisant CF72 8LX</p> <p>Ffôn: 01443 232000</p>	<p>The Gambling Commission Victoria Square House Victoria Square BIRMINGHAM B2 4BP</p>

<p>H. M. Revenue & Customs Ty Nant 180 High Street SWANSEA SA1 5AP</p> <p>Her Majesty's Commissioners of Customs and Excise, Government Buildings Ty Glas Llanishen Cardiff. CF14 5FP 029 2032 5003</p>	
<p>Shared Regulatory Services Bridgend County Borough Council Civic Offices Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB</p> <p>https://www.srs.wales/en/Contact-Us.aspx</p> <p>Phone: 0300 123 6696</p> <p>Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Y Swyddfeydd Dinesig Stryd yr Angel Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. CF31 4WB</p> <p>https://www.srs.wales/cy/Contact-Us.aspx</p> <p>Ffôn: 0300 123 6696</p>	

Please note that the addresses of these bodies may change from time to time and you are advised to contact the Licensing Section before submitting an application.

1.10 Information Exchange and Responsible Authorities

In fulfilling its functions and obligations under the Act the Council will exchange relevant information with other regulatory bodies or responsible authorities and will establish separate protocols with these bodies where applicable. In exchanging such information, the Council will comply with the requirements of

data protection, freedom of information, existing Council policies and any Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission. Section 29 of the Act places an obligation on the authority to comply with the Gambling Commission's information requests and the Gambling Commission's website sets out the information exchange protocols in place.

1.11 Regulation and Instituting Criminal Proceedings

In exercising the functions under Part 15 of the Act with respect to the inspection of premises and the powers under section 346 of the Act to institute criminal proceedings in respect of the offences specified in that section, the licensing authority will ensure compliance with the terms of premises licences and other permissions which it authorises.

The main enforcement and compliance role for this authority will be in respect of premises and other permissions for which it has responsibility. The Gambling Commission will be the enforcement body for operating and personal licences and concerns about manufacture, supply or repair of gaming machines will be notified to the Gambling Commission.

The principles for regulation will be informed by the Gambling Commission's Guidance and will endeavour to be in accordance with the principles of better regulation.

The principles to be followed are that regulators and regulation should be:

- Proportionate, appropriate to the risk posed, accountable, consistent and transparent.

This licensing authority will adopt a risk-based inspection programme of premises; the following criteria are to be used in determining the level of risk in respect of premises.

Use of licensed premises for the sale and distribution of drugs and the laundering of the proceeds of drugs crimes;

Use of licensed premises for the sale and distribution of illegal firearms;

Use of licensed premises for prostitution or the sale of unlawful pornography;

Use of licensed premises as a base for organised criminal activity;

Use of licensed premises for the organisation of racist, homophobic or sexual abuse or attacks;

Use of licensed premises for the sale of smuggled tobacco or goods;

The use of licensed premises for the sale of stolen goods.

Where children and/or vulnerable persons are put at risk.

The licensing authority will investigate complaints against licensed premises in relation to matters relating to the licensing objectives for which it has responsibility. In the first instance, complainants are encouraged to raise the complaint directly with the licensee or business concerned to seek a local resolution.

Where any party has made valid representations about licensed premises, or a valid application for a licence to be reviewed, the licensing authority is minded to support conciliation meetings to address and clarify the issues of concern. This process will not override the right of any party to ask that the licensing authority consider their valid objections, or for any licence holder or applicant to decline to participate in a conciliation meeting.

The authority recognises that certain operators have a number of premises within its area. In order to ensure that any compliance issues are recognised and resolved at the earliest opportunity, the authority requests that operators provide a single named point of contact who should be a senior individual within the organisation, and whom the authority will endeavour to contact first should any compliance issues arise.

The Council will take account of the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission and any subsequent amendments, in respect of making test purchases at gambling premises and will also have regard to its own policies and procedures regarding the use of underage test purchasers.

.12 Integration with existing legislation and local and national strategies

The licensing authority will follow the Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission when determining applications and will not take into account irrelevant matters, i.e. those not related to gambling objectives. In the unlikely event that the licensing authority perceives a conflict between a provision of a Gambling Commission code of practice or the statutory guidance issued by the Commission, and the authority's policy statement, the Gambling Commission's codes and Guidance will take precedence.

The licensing authority will have regard to the Guidance in respect of the relationship between planning permission, building regulations and the granting of premises licences

1.13 The Statement of Licensing Principles will be reviewed in accordance with the provisions of the Act and will serve as a basis for determining licence applications.

1.14 Following consideration of the consultation responses, the Statement was approved at a meeting of Council held on **/**/**** and comes into effect on **/**/2022 A copy is available at www.bridgend.gov.uk.

A copy is also available free of charge from the Licensing Section and in other formats on request.

1.15 A list of persons whom the authority has consulted in preparing the statement.

The Council consulted with the following bodies before adopting the Statement:

The Chief Constable: South Wales Police
The Chief Fire Officer: South Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Council Safeguarding and Partnership leads
Town and Community Councils
Local Health Board
Community Safety Partnership members
H. M. Revenue & Customs
Association of British Bookmakers (ABB)
BACTA
British Assoc. of Leisure Parks, Piers & Attractions Ltd.
GAMCARE
The Gambling Commission
Sample of existing licensees
Licensee representatives who have previously expressed a wish to be notified of consultations
Public consultation also took place via the authority's website between **/** 2021 and **/**/2021.

1.16 Casinos

This licensing authority has not passed a 'no casino' resolution under Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005, but is aware that it has the power to do so. Should this licensing authority decide in the future to pass such a resolution, it will update this policy statement with details of that resolution. Any such decision will be made by the full Council. Should the Council pass such a resolution, this licensing authority will consider applications in line with the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission.

1.17 Declaration

In producing the final Statement, the licensing authority has had regard to the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, and responses from those consulted on the Statement. The authority has also had regard to its responsibilities under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Human Rights Act 1998 (Articles 1, 6, 8 and 10), and legislation to eliminate unlawful discrimination and inequality.

The Council recognizes its diverse responsibilities under equality legislation and will monitor impact of these statutory duties through its various corporate equality schemes and impact assessments. The Statement of Licensing Principles is not intended to duplicate existing legislation and regulatory regimes which already place obligations on employees and operators of gambling establishments.

When discharging its functions, the licensing authority will have regard to the different considerations between the objectives set out in the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005. When deciding whether or not to grant a licence, the licensing authority will not have regard to the expected demand or need for gambling premises that are the subject of the application.

The Guidance to Local Authorities issued by the Gambling Commission may be revised from time to time and references to criteria etc. set out in this statement are to be construed as referring to the current edition of the Guidance.

2.0 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

2.1 Nothing in this Statement will:

Undermine the rights of any person to apply under the Act for a variety of permissions and have the application considered on its individual merits, or

Override the right of any person to make representations on any application or seek a review of a licence or permit where they are permitted to do so under the Act, or

Preclude each case being decided on its merits taking into account the measures proposed by an applicant to address the gambling licensing objectives.

2.2 The licensing authority's primary obligation under section 153(1) of the Act is to permit the use of premises in so far as it thinks that to do so is:

- a. in accordance with relevant codes of practice issued by the Commission
- b. in accordance with guidance issued by the Commission
- c. reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives (subject to (a) and (b) above),
and
- d. in accordance with the Licensing Authority Statement of Policy published by the authority (subject to (a) to (c) above).

2.3 Definition of Premises

2.3.1 In considering applications and undertaking its regulatory role the licensing authority will apply the principles and tests set out in the Guidance in respect of the following matters:

- The definition of a "premises" in the Statutory Guidance

- Multi-purpose sites and multiple licences for a building
- Division of premises and access between premises

Full details are contained in the current Guidance and the licensing authority will have regard to any future revisions of these definitions. The authority will therefore consider these and other relevant factors in making its decision, depending on all the circumstances of the case.

2.3.2 This authority will have regard to the Commission's Guidance in respect of the relationship between planning permission, building regulations and granting of a premises licence.

2.3.3 The licensing authority will be mindful that operators can apply for a premises licence in respect of premises which have still to be constructed or altered and will determine any such application on its merits. The authority will adopt the process of assessment advocated by the Commission in its Guidance. It will also consider imposing an effective date of commencement of the licence or a condition stating when a licence will come into effect, as the case may be, to ensure that premises are constructed in accordance with plans. The authority will consider a physical inspection as an appropriate means of ensuring compliance with any condition imposed.

2.4 Location of premises

2.4.1 This licensing authority will follow the Commission's guidance that demand issues cannot be considered with regard to the location of premises but that considerations in terms of the licensing objectives can. This authority will pay particular attention to the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling as well as issues of crime and disorder.

2.4.2 When determining applications or reviews the authority will determine each application on its merits and if an applicant can show how risks to the licensing objectives can be mitigated, the licensing authority will take this into account in its decision making.

2.4.3 The licensing authority will give sympathetic consideration to the re-siting of premises within the same locality subject to any representations which highlight a likely negative impact on the licensing objectives.

2.4.4 The licensing authority recommends applicants to consider adopting the British Amusement Catering Trade Association's (BACTA) voluntary codes of practice relating to social responsibility, good practice, training initiatives and age of entry control policies.

2.4.5 The licensing authority recommends that applicants consider BACTA and GamCare codes of policy regarding site self-exclusion to support those persons who have difficulty controlling their gambling.

2.5 Vessels and vehicles

2.5.1 The Act permits premises licences to be granted for passenger vessels. Separate application forms are prescribed for vessels under the Premises Licences and Provisional Statements Regulations. This authority adopts the definition of vessels and vehicles set out in the Act and the criteria set out in the Guidance when considering structures which are an extension of the land, including a pier or a bridge which are to be considered as premises under the Act and all other matters relating to vessels and the waters over which it has jurisdiction to act.

2.5.2 The Act allows pleasure boats to apply for premises licences and the Guidance set out by the Gambling Commission in this and all other matters relating to vessels.

2.6 Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime

2.6.1 The licensing authority will pay due regard to the proposed location of gambling premises in terms of this licensing objective and to the distinctions between serious crime, disorder and nuisance. The licensing authority will only grant a licence application if it is satisfied that crime prevention has been adequately addressed.

2.6.2 Thus, where an area has known high levels of organised crime this authority will consider carefully whether gambling premises are suitable to be located there and whether conditions may be appropriate such as the provision of door supervisors. The licensing authority will not address issues of nuisance which can be addressed by other relevant legislation or general nuisance issues e.g. parking or anti-social behaviour.

2.6.3 Applicants are encouraged to discuss the crime prevention procedures in their premises with the South Wales Police before making a formal application.

2.6.4 In considering licence applications, the licensing authority will particularly take into account the following:

- The design and layout of the premises;
- The training given to staff in crime prevention measures appropriate to those premises;
- Physical security features installed in the premises. This may include matters such as the position of cash registers or the standard of CCTV that is installed;
- Where premises are subject to age-restrictions, the procedures in place to conduct age verification checks;
- The likelihood of any violence, public order or policing problem if the licence is granted.

This list is not exhaustive and applicants may propose other measures which will address this licensing objective. Applicants for a premises licence will first

need to obtain an operating licence issued by the Gambling Commission. As a result the licensing authority will not be primarily concerned with the suitability of an applicant, but where those concerns do arise, the licensing authority will bring these to the attention of the Gambling Commission.

2.7 Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way

2.7.1 The Gambling Commission does not generally not expect licensing authorities to become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; this will be addressed via operating and personal licences save with regard to tracks, which is explained in more detail below. The authority will, as required, advise the Commission if there is evidence that this objective is not being met.

2.8 Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

2.8.1 This authority will have regard to the intention of the Gambling Act that, with limited exceptions, children and young persons should not be permitted to gamble and should be prevented from entering those gambling premises which are adult-only environments. The objective refers to children from being harmed or exploited by gambling. This means preventing them from taking part in gambling and for there to be restrictions on advertising so that gambling products are not aimed at children or advertised in such a way that makes them particularly attractive to children, (excepting Category D gaming machines).

The LCCP Codes prescribe how operators must prevent children from using age restricted gaming or gambling activities particularly where gaming machines are licensed. The authority will take all conditions and codes into account when considering applications or undertaking compliance and enforcement activities

2.8.2 Having due regard to the measures set out in the application, and to any relevant representations, the licensing authority may therefore consider whether specific measures are required at particular premises, with regard to this licensing objective. Appropriate measures may include supervision of entrances/machines, segregation of areas, training, and siting of ATM's (cash machines).

2.8.4 As regards the term "vulnerable persons" it is noted that the Gambling Commission does not seeking to offer a definition but sets out for regulatory purposes a number of vulnerable groups to may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling. This licensing authority will consider whether any special considerations apply to this licensing objective on a case by case basis balanced against the objective to aim to permit the use of premises for gambling.

2.9 Considerations relating conditions to be attached to Premises Licences

2.9.1 The licensing authority acknowledges that mandatory conditions are set by the Secretary of State with the intention that no further regulation in relation to

that matter is required. Therefore it is considered extremely unlikely that the authority will need to impose individual conditions imposing a more restrictive regime in relation to matters that have already been dealt with by mandatory conditions. The licensing authority will only consider imposing conditions where there is evidence of regulatory concerns of an exceptional nature and any additional licence conditions will be evidence based and relate to the licensing objectives.

2.9.2 In addition to any default conditions that may be prescribed by regulation, any conditions attached to licences by the licensing authority will be proportionate and will be:

- relevant to the need to make the proposed building suitable as a gambling facility;
- directly related to the premises and the type of licence applied for;
- fairly and reasonably related to the scale and type of premises; and,
- reasonable in all other respects.

2.9.3 This licensing authority will also expect the licence applicant to offer his/her own suggestions as to the way in which the licensing objectives can be met effectively.

2.9.4 This licensing authority take particular care in assessing applications for multiple premises licences for a building in accordance with the Gambling Commission's Guidance.

2.10 Door Supervisors

2.10.1 Where the authority exercises its discretion to impose a premises licence condition to require entrances to the premises to be controlled by a door supervisor, that person is required to be licensed under the Private Security Industries Act 2001 (PSIA). Each case will be judged on its merits within the overarching Guidance relating to imposing conditions above any Mandatory Conditions.

3.0 PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC CLASSES OF PREMISES OR PERMIT

3.1 In addition to the general principles to be applied when considering applications, the following issues may be considered in appropriate circumstances in respect of the following specific classes of permit or premises.

The Licence Conditions and Code of Practice (LCCP) issued by the Gambling Commission places further onus on premises to complete a risk assessment based on the Social Responsibility code. The authority will have regard to this code when considering applications. Operators may access this information via the Gambling Commission website at www.gambling.commission.gov.uk

Risk Assessments

The Gambling Commission and social responsibility code within the LCCP requires gambling operators to assess the local risks to the licensing objectives posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises, and to have policies, procedures and control measures to mitigate those risks. These local risk assessments are specific to the potential harm that gambling may have on one or more of the licensing objectives. They should be specific to the premises, the local area and the community and the licensing authority therefore expects the applicant to have a good understanding of the area in which they either operate, or intend to operate.

It is a mandatory requirement that risk assessments are carried out:

- When there are significant changes in local circumstances
- When there are significant changes at a licensee's premises that may affect their mitigation of local risks
- When applying for the grant or variation of a premises licence

This is not an exhaustive or prescriptive list, but matters that risk assessment may include are:

- The area in which the premises is located/to be located
- Staff training in intervention when a customer shows signs of excessive gambling
- Location and coverage of CCTV cameras and how the system is operated and monitored
- The layout of the premises to allow staff to have an unobstructed view of persons using the premises
- Staff numbers including the supervisory and monitoring arrangements when staff are absent from the licensed area by reason of dealing with customers
- Arrangements for monitoring and dealing with underage persons and vulnerable persons, which may include dedicated trained personnel, leaflets, posters etc.
- Information held by the licensee regarding self-exclusions and incidences of underage gambling
- Arrangements for localized exchange of information regarding self-exclusions and gaming trends
- Setting, including proximity to schools, youth centres, leisure centres, other gambling outlets, refreshment and entertainment type facilities, parks and playgrounds
- Known problems in the area involving young persons such as problems arising from anti-social behavior
- The risk assessment should include an assessment of the impact of any promotional material likely to encourage the use of the premises by children who are not allowed to access the premises.

- The licensing authority considers it best practice for a copy of the local risk assessment to be retained on the premises.

Appropriate Licence Environment

Where gambling facilities are provided at premises as a supplementary activity to the main purpose of the premises e.g. at motorway service areas and shopping malls, the authority will expect the gambling area to be clearly defined to ensure that customers are fully aware that they are making a choice to enter into the gambling premises, and that the premises is adequately supervised at all times.

3.2 Adult Gaming Centres

This licensing authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the premises. This licensing authority will expect applicants to offer their own measures to meet the licensing objectives, however appropriate measures may cover issues such as:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- The display of sources of help for persons with a gambling problem in prominent areas, and in more discreet areas to afford anonymity.
- Self-barring and self-exclusion schemes
- Gaming odds to be clearly displayed on machines
- ATM or other cash machines to be separate from gaming machines

This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and is merely indicative of example measures.

3.3 (Licensed) Family Entertainment Centres

This licensing authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority, for example, that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machine areas.

This licensing authority will expect applicants to offer their own measures to comply with the licensing objectives and mandatory conditions; however appropriate measures may cover issues such as:

- CCTV
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas
- Location of entry

- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours
- Self-barring and self-exclusion schemes
- Provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare
- Measures / training for staff on how to deal with suspected truant school children on the premises.
- Gaming odds to be clearly displayed on machines
- ATM or other cash machines to be separate from gaming machines

This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and is merely indicative of example measures.

3.4 Bingo premises

Bingo is not given a statutory definition in the Act and the licensing authority will have regard to the commonly understood terms of cash bingo and prize bingo laid down in the Guidance.

This licensing authority will have regard to the Gambling Commission's Guidance and Mandatory Conditions relating to the admission of children to premises licensed for bingo.

3.5 Betting premises

Children and young persons will not be able to enter premises with a betting premises licence although special rules will apply to tracks. The licensing authority intends to follow the Commission's Guidance in respect of off course betting and premises licences.

3.6 Tracks

3.6.1 This licensing authority adopts the Guidance set out by the Gambling Commission in terms of definitions of tracks and the grant of premises licences. It will especially consider the impact upon the third licensing objective (i.e. the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling).

3.6.2 This authority will therefore expect the premises licence applicant to demonstrate suitable measures to ensure that children do not have access to adult only gaming facilities.

3.6.3 This licensing authority will expect applicants to offer their own measures to meet the licensing objectives; however appropriate measures may cover issues such as:

- Proof of age schemes
- CCTV
- Supervision of entrances / machine areas
- Physical separation of areas

- Location of entry
- Notices / signage
- Specific opening hours
- Self-barring and self-exclusion schemes
- Provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare
- Gaming odds to be clearly displayed on machines
- ATM or other cash machines to be separate from gaming machines

This list is not mandatory, nor exhaustive, and is merely indicative of example measures.

3.6.4 Plans should make clear what is being sought for authorization under the track betting premises licence and what, if any, other areas are to be subject to a separate application for a different type of premises licence. Plans need not be to a particular scale but should be sufficiently detailed to comply with regulations and enable the licensing authority to make an informed judgement about whether the premises are fit for gambling. The authority will have regard to the specific Guidance issued in respect tracks including defining the outer perimeter of a track and the location of betting areas

3.7 Travelling Fairs

3.7.1 The licensing authority adopts the Commission's Guidance on this matter.

3.8 Conditions and avoiding duplication with other legislation

3.8.1 A range of general legislation governing health and safety, disability and race discrimination, employment law and fire safety is already imposed on the owners of gambling premises. The licensing authority will strive not to duplicate existing regulatory regimes.

3.9 Consideration of Provisional Statements

3.9.1 Section 204 of the Act provides for a person to make an application to the licensing authority for a provisional statement in respect of premises that he or she:

- expects to be constructed
- expects to be altered
- expects to acquire a right to occupy.

The Guidance states that a licence to use premises for gambling should only be issued in relation to a premises that the licensing authority can be satisfied are going to be ready to be used for gambling in the reasonably near future. If the construction of the premises is not yet complete or if they need alteration, or if the applicant does not yet have a right to occupy them, then an application for a provisional statement should be submitted.

The authority will follow the Gambling Commission guidance in respect of the two stage process for determining an application.

3.9.2 Applicants for premises licences must fulfil certain criteria. They must hold or have applied for an operating licence from the Commission (except in the case of a track), and they must have the right to occupy the premises in respect of which their premises licence application is made. However, these restrictions do not apply in relation to an application for a provisional statement. The licensing authority will not speculate on or otherwise take into account the likelihood of an operating licence being granted in its consideration of the application for a provisional statement.

3.9.3 The authority may refuse the premises licence (or grant it on terms different to those attached to the provisional statement) only by reference to matters:

- which could not have been raised by way of representations at the provisional licence stage,
- which, in the authority's opinion, reflect a change in the operator's circumstances,
- where the premises has not been constructed in accordance with the plan and information submitted with the provisional statement application.

3.9.4 This must be a substantial change to the plan and licensing authorities will discuss any concerns they have with the applicant before making a decision.

3.9.5 The licensing authority will not have regard to whether or not a proposal by the applicant is likely to be permitted in accordance with planning or building law.

3.9.6 In terms of representations about premises licence applications, following the grant of a provisional statement, no further representations from relevant authorities or interested parties will be taken into account unless they concern matters which could not have been addressed at the provisional statement stage, or they reflect a change in the applicant's circumstances

4.0 Reviews

4.1 A premises licence may be reviewed by the licensing authority of its own volition or following the receipt of an application for a review. Reviews will be normally be delegated to a Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

4.2 Consideration of applications for review will be made on the basis of whether the request for the review is relevant to the matters listed below (subject to proviso that each case will be dealt with on merit). Due regard will be given as to whether the request is frivolous, vexatious or repetitious. Representations which may trigger the review process will involve serious crime and may therefore include:

- Use of licensed premises for the sale and distribution of drugs and the laundering of the proceeds of drugs crimes;

- Use of licensed premises for the sale and distribution of illegal firearms;
- Use of licensed premises for prostitution or the sale of unlawful pornography;
- Use of licensed premises as a base for organised criminal activity;
- Use of licensed premises for the organisation of racist, homophobic or sexual abuse or attacks;
- Use of licensed premises for the sale of smuggled tobacco or goods;
- The use of licensed premises for the sale of stolen goods;
- Children and/or vulnerable persons are being put at risk.

4.3 In addition, due consideration will be given to the following;

- the grounds are irrelevant;
- the grounds will not cause the Licensing Authority to revoke or suspend a licence or to remove, amend or attach conditions on the Premises Licence;
- the grounds are substantially the same as the grounds cited in a previous application relating to the same premises; or
- the grounds are substantially the same as representations made at the time the application for a Premises Licence was considered.

5.0 PERMITS / TEMPORARY & OCCASIONAL USE NOTICES

5.1 Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre gaming machine permits

5.1.1 The licensing authority does not intend to publish a separate statement of principles for considering applicant suitability for applications for FEC permits under paragraph 7 of Schedule 10 to the Act and, for ease of reference, includes this as part of this policy document.

5.1.2 Application for a permit can only be made by a person who occupies or plans to occupy the premises to be used as an unlicensed FEC and, if the applicant is an individual, he or she must be aged 18 or over. Applications for a permit cannot be made if a premises licence is in effect for the same premises.

5.1.3 Where a premises does not hold a premises licence but wishes to provide gaming machines, it may apply to the licensing authority for this permit. It should be noted that the applicant must show that the premises will be wholly or mainly used for making gaming machines available for use (Section 238 of the Gambling Act 2005).

5.1.4 The licensing authority adopts the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities in respect of these permits, giving particular weight to child protection issues.

5.1.5 An application for a permit is likely to be granted only if the licensing authority is satisfied that the premises will be used as an unlicensed FEC and the applicant can demonstrate:

- a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes of the gambling that is permissible in unlicensed FECs;
- that he or she has no relevant convictions (those that are set out in Schedule 7 of the Act); and
- that staff are trained to have a full understanding of the maximum stakes and prizes;

5.1.6 The licensing authority will have regard to membership of any trade association which has included training and guidance to operators.

5.1.7 This licensing authority will expect the applicant to show that there are policies and procedures in place to protect children from harm. Harm in this context is not limited to harm from gambling but includes wider child protection considerations.

- The efficiency of such policies and procedures will each be considered on their merits, however, they may include:
- staff training as regards suspected truant school children on the premises;
- measures and or training covering how staff would deal with unsupervised very young children being on the premises, or children causing perceived problems on / around the premises.
- It should be noted that a licensing authority cannot attach conditions to this type of permit.

5.2 (Alcohol) Licensed premises gaming machine permits

5.2.1 The licensing authority will adopt the Gambling Commission statutory guidance in relation to notifications and permits in alcohol licensed premises. There is provision in the Act for premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises, to an automatic entitlement to have 2 gaming machines, of categories C and/or D. The premises merely needs to notify the licensing authority of their intention to make gaming machines available for use.

The licensing authority will consider making an Order under Section 284 of the Act if it is satisfied that:

- provision of the machines is not reasonably consistent with the pursuit of the licensing objectives;

- gaming has taken place on the premises that breaches a condition of section 282 of the Gambling Act.
- the premises are mainly used for gaming; or
- an offence under the Gambling Act has been committed on the premises.

5.2.2 If a premises wishes to have more than two machines, then it needs to apply for a permit and the licensing authority will consider that application based upon the licensing objectives, any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, and such matters as they think relevant. This licensing authority considers that “such matters” will be decided on a case by case basis but generally there will be regard to:

- the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling
- whether the applicant can satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machines.

Measures which will satisfy the authority that there will be no access may include:

- the adult machines being in sight of the bar, or in the sight of staff who will monitor that the machines are not being used by those under 18
- Appropriate notices and signage

5.2.3 As regards the protection of vulnerable persons applicants may wish to consider the provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

5.2.4 It is recognised that some alcohol licensed premises may apply for a premises licence for their non-alcohol licensed areas. Any such application would most likely need to be applied for, and dealt with as an Adult Gaming Centre premises licence.

5.2.5 It should be noted that the licensing authority may decide to grant the application with a smaller number of machines and/or a different category of machines than that applied for.

5.2.6 It should also be noted that the holder of a permit must comply with any Code of Practice issued by the Gambling Commission about the location and operation of the machine.

5.3 Prize Gaming Permits

5.3.1 The licensing authority does not intend to publish a separate statement of principles for considering applicant suitability for applications for prize gaming permits under paragraph 8 of Schedule 14 to the Act and, for ease of reference, includes this as part of this policy document.

5.3.2 This licensing authority will expect that, when making an application for a prize gaming permit, the applicant should set out the types of gaming that he or she is intending to offer and be able to demonstrate:

- that they understand the limits of stakes and prizes that are set out in Regulations and
- that the gaming offered is within the law.
- Clear policies are available which outline the steps to be taken to protect children from harm

5.3.3 In making its decision on an application for this permit the licensing authority may have regard to the licensing objectives, the Gambling Commission guidance and relevant representations from the South Wales Police. This will include representations about the suitability of an applicant in terms of relevant convictions, the location of the premises in relation to disorder and child protection issues.

5.3.4 It should be noted that there are conditions in the Gambling Act 2005 with which the permit holder must comply, but that the licensing authority cannot attach conditions. The conditions in the Act are:

- the limits on participation fees, as set out in regulations, must be complied with;
- all chances to participate in the gaming must be allocated on the premises on which the gaming is taking place and on one day; the game must be played and completed on the day the chances are allocated; and the result of the game must be made public in the premises on the day that it is played;
- the prize for which the game is played must not exceed the amount set out in regulations (if a money prize), or the prescribed value (if non-monetary prize); and
- participation in the gaming must not entitle the player to take part in any other gambling.

5.4 Club Gaming and Club Machines Permits

5.4.1 The licensing authority will have regard to and follow the Commission's Guidance in respect of the grant of Club Gaming and Club Machines Permits

5.4.2 There is also a 'fast-track' procedure available under the Act for premises which hold a Club Premises Certificate under the Licensing Act 2003 (Schedule 12 paragraph 10). The licensing authority will follow the Gambling Commission's

Guidance that the grounds on which an application under the process may be refused are:

- that the club is established primarily for gaming, other than gaming prescribed under schedule 12;
- that in addition to the prescribed gaming, the applicant provides facilities for other gaming; or
- that a club gaming permit or club machine permit issued to the applicant in the last ten years has been cancelled.

5.5 Temporary Use Notices

- 5.5.1 Part 9 of the Act sets out the position in relation to temporary use notices. These allow the use of premises for gambling where there is no premises licence but where a gambling operator wishes to use the premises temporarily for providing facilities for gambling.
- 5.5.2 The licensing authority will have regard to the Guidance regarding the examples of premises that might be suitable for a temporary use notice which include hotels, conference centres and sporting venues.
- 5.5.3 The meaning of 'premises' in Part 8 of the Act will be a question of fact in the particular circumstances of each notice that is given. The licensing authority will examine, amongst other things, the ownership/occupation and control of the premises and will follow the criteria set out in the Guidance when assessing applications where it appears that the effect of notices would be to permit regular gambling in a place that could be described as one set of premises.
- 5.5.4 When considering whether to give notice of objection, the licensing authority will have regard to the licensing objectives and if they consider that the gambling should not take place, or only with modifications, they will give a notice of objection to the person who gave the temporary use notice.
- 5.5.5 The principles that the authority will apply in issuing a counter-notice will be the same as those in determining premises licence applications. In particular, the licensing authority is aware of the Guidance that it should aim to permit the provision of facilities for gambling under a temporary use notice subject to its view as to whether to do so accords with a Commission code, the Guidance, or its Statement of Policy and is reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives.
- 5.5.6 The licensing authority will have particular regard to whether the effect of Temporary Use Notices is to permit regular gambling in a place that could be described as one set of premises. Factors such as ownership, occupation and control of the premises will be considered when deciding whether to object to a Temporary Use Notice.

5.6 Occasional Use Notices

5.6.1 Section 39 of the Act provides that where there is betting on a track on eight days or less in a calendar year, betting may be permitted by an occasional use notice without the need for a full premises licence. The licensing authority is mindful that the meaning of 'track' in the Act covers not just horse racecourses or dog tracks, but also any other premises on any part of which a race or other sporting event takes place, or is intended to take place (section 353(1)). This means that land which has a number of uses, one of which fulfils the definition of track, can qualify for the occasional use notice provisions (for example agricultural land upon which a point-to-point meeting takes place). Land used temporarily as a track can qualify, provided races or sporting events take place or will take place there. The track need not be a permanent fixture.

5.6.2 The licensing authority has very little discretion as regards these notices aside from ensuring that the statutory limit of 8 days in a calendar year is not exceeded. This licensing authority will though consider the definition of a 'track' and whether the applicant is permitted to avail him/herself of the notice.

5.7 Small Society Lotteries

5.7.1 Applicants for registration are reminded that it is inherent in the definitions that a society must have been established for one of the permitted purposes, and that the proceeds of any lottery must be devoted to those purposes. It is not permissible to establish a society whose sole purpose is to facilitate lotteries – it must have some other purpose. The authority will apply the following tests:

- society status – the society in question must be 'non-commercial'
- lottery size – the total value of tickets to be put on sale per single lottery must be £20,000 or less, or the aggregate value of tickets to be put on sale for all their lotteries in a calendar year must not exceed £250,000. If the operator plans to exceed either of these values then they may need to be licensed with the Commission to operate large lotteries instead.

5.7.2 The authority recommends applicants and prospective applicants obtain the Commission's advisory documents relating to lotteries which are available on the Commission's website.

5.7.3 Applications for small society lottery registrations must be in the form prescribed by the Secretary of State and be accompanied by both the required registration fee and all necessary documents required by the licensing authority to assess the application accordingly.

5.7.4 The authority may ask new applicants for a copy of their terms and conditions or their constitution to establish that they are a non-commercial society. It may also require applicants to provide a declaration, stating that they represent a bona-fide non-commercial society.

5.7.5 The authority will delegate the registration of small societies to licensing officers, subject to its specific process of delegations.

5.7.6 The authority proposes to set out the following grounds for licensing for refusing a small society lottery registration application:

- An operating licence held by the applicant for registration has been revoked or
- an application for an operating licence made by the applicant for registration has been refused, within the past five years, or
- The society in question cannot be deemed non-commercial. Each case will be determined on its merits but an applicant may be required applicants to provide a statement with their application form declaring that they represented a bona-fide non-commercial society, and identifying how the purpose of the society could be established. In some circumstances further supporting information will be sought.
- A person who will or may be connected with the promotion of the lottery has been convicted of a relevant offence. The licensing authority may require an applicant to provide an additional statement declaring that they have no relevant convictions that would prevent them from running lotteries.
- Information provided in or with the application for registration is found to be false or misleading.

5.7.7 The licensing authority will only refuse an application for registration after the society has had the opportunity to make representations. These will normally be considered at a formal hearing. The licensing authority will inform the society of the reasons why it is minded to refuse registration and provide it with at least an outline of the evidence on which it has reached that preliminary conclusion in order to enable representations to be made. Representations and objections that may result after such a decision will be handled in the same way that the authority would handle representations relating to other licensing matters. A copy of these procedures will be provided with the initial correspondence.

5.7.8 The licensing authority may determine to revoke the registration of a society if it thinks that they would have had to, or would be entitled to, refuse an application for registration if it were being made at that time.

5.7.9 Revocations will not take place unless the society has been given an opportunity to make representations at a hearing or via correspondence. In preparation for this, the authority will inform the society of the reasons why it is minded to revoke the registration and provide them with the terms of the evidence on which it has reached that preliminary conclusion.

6.0 DECISION MAKING AND DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

- 6.1 Appreciating the need to provide a speedy, efficient and cost-effective service to all parties involved in the licensing process, the Licensing Committee may delegate certain decisions and functions and has established Sub-Committees to deal with them. Functions which are purely administrative in nature and non-contentious applications will be delegated to Council Officers.
- 6.2 A Licensing Sub-Committee of three Councillors will sit to hear applications where representations have been received from interested parties and responsible authorities. Ward Councillors will not sit on a panel involving an application within their ward.
- 6.3 Where a Councillor who is a member of the Licensing Committee is making or has made representations regarding a licence on behalf of an interested party, in the interests of good governance they will disqualify themselves from any involvement in the decision-making process.
- 6.4 The Licensing Committee will also sit to determine general licensing matters that have been delegated to it by the full Council that are not associated with the Gambling Act 2005.
- 6.5 The Licensing Sub-Committee will also refer to the Licensing Committee any matter it is unable to deal with because of the number of its members who are unable to take part in the consideration or discussion of any matter or vote on any question with respect to it.
- 6.6 The Licensing Committee will refer to the full Council any matter it is unable to deal with because of the number of its members who are unable to take part in the consideration or discussion of any matter or vote on any question with respect to it.
- 6.7 Every determination of a licensing decision by the Licensing Committee or Sub-Committee shall be accompanied with clear, cogent reasons for the decision. The decision and the reasons for that decision will be sent to the applicant and those who have made relevant representations as soon as practicable.
- 6.8 Nothing in this Statement will override the right of an applicant, responsible authority or interested party to appeal against the decision of a Licensing Sub-Committee.
- 6.9 Decisions as to whether representations are irrelevant, frivolous or vexatious will be made by Council officers, who will make the decisions on whether representations or applications for licence reviews should be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee. Where representations are rejected, the person making that representation will be given written reasons as to why that is the case.
- 6.10 This form of delegation is without prejudice to Officers referring an application to a Sub-Committee, or a Sub-Committee to Committee, or Committee to Council, if considered appropriate in the circumstances of any particular case.

Matter	Council	Sub-Committee	OFFICERS
Three year licensing policy	X		
Policy not to permit casinos	X		
Fee Setting - when appropriate			X
Application for premises licences		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Application for a variation to a licence		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Application for a transfer of a licence		Where representations have been received from the Commission	Where no representations received from the Commission
Application for a provisional statement		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Review of a premises licence		X	
Application for club gaming /club machine permits		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Cancellation of club gaming/ club machine permits		X	
Applications for other permits			X
Cancellation of licensed premises gaming machine permits			X
Consideration of temporary use notice			X
Decision to give a counter notice to a temporary use notice		X	

Determination as to whether a person is an Interested Party			X
Determination as to whether representations are relevant			X
Determination as to whether a representation is frivolous, vexatious or repetitive			X

The above delegations relate to the overarching principles of delegation for policy issues and applications for premises licences. Other delegations may be added from time to time and will be available at www.bridgend.gov.uk in accordance with the Council's constitution and Scheme of Delegation to officers and the Commission's Guidance.

7.0 RIGHTS OF APPEAL AND JUDICIAL REVIEW

- 7.1 The avenues of appeal against decisions by a licensing authority are set out in sections 206 to 209 of the Gambling Act 2005.
- 7.2 The licensing authority will give clear and comprehensive reasons for a rejection of an application. The reasons will address the extent to which the decision has been made with regard to the Licensing Authority's Statement of Policy and the Commission's Guidance.
- 7.3 An appeal has to be commenced by the giving of a notice of appeal by the appellant to the Cardiff and the Vale Magistrates Court within a period of 21 days, beginning with the day on which the appellant is notified by the licensing authority of the decision being appealed.
- 7.4 Any party to a decision may apply for judicial review if they believe that the decision taken by the licensing authority is:
- illegal – that is beyond the powers available to the licensing authority
 - subject to procedural impropriety or unfairness – which is a failure in the process of reaching the decision, such as not observing the 'rules of natural justice'
 - irrational – where a decision is so unreasonable that no sensible person could have reached it (in effect 'perverse' or 'Wednesbury' unreasonable).

Sources used to prepare the Statement of Principles included:

The Gambling Commission Guidance available at www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

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GOSSCHALKS

BY EMAIL ONLY
Licensing Section
Bridgend County Borough Council

Please ask for: Richard Taylor
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Email: rjt@gosschalks.co.uk
Our ref: RJT / MJM / 123267.00001
#GS4064024
Your ref:
Date: 1st September 2021

Dear Sirs,

Re: Gambling Act 2005 Policy Statement Consultation

We act for the Betting and Gaming Council (BGC) and are instructed to respond on behalf of the BGC to your consultation on the review of your Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles.

The Betting and Gaming Council

The Betting and Gaming Council (BGC) was created in 2019 as the new standards body for the UK's regulated betting and gaming industry. This includes betting shops, online betting and gaming businesses, bingo and casinos. Its mission is to champion industry standards in betting and gaming to ensure an enjoyable, fair and safe betting and gaming experience for all of its members' customers.

BGC members support 119,000 jobs and account for £4.5 billion to the Treasury annually in tax. Recent study also showed that BGC members contributed around £7.7 billion in gross value added to the UK economy in 2019.

The gambling industry is integral to the survival of sport. Betting companies spend over £40 million a year on the English Football League (EFL) and its clubs. Horse racing, an industry estimated to be worth £3.5 billion a year to the UK economy and which generates 85,000 jobs receives over £350 million per annum through the Horse Racing Industry Levy, media rights and sponsorship. Darts and Snooker receive in excess of £10 million per annum which represents 90 % of all sponsorship revenue.

The BGC has four principal objectives. These are to –

- **create a culture of safer gambling throughout the betting and gaming sector, with particular focus on young people and those who are vulnerable**
- **ensure future changes to the regulatory regime are considered, proportionate and balanced**

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- become respected as valuable, responsible and engaged members of the communities in which its members operate
- safeguard and empower the customer as the key to a thriving UK betting and gaming industry

Before we comment on your draft policy document, it is important that the backdrop against which the comments are made is established.

Betting and Gaming in the UK

Betting and gaming is an incredibly important part of the UK leisure and hospitality industry, employing over 70,000 people, including 50,000 in betting, 13,000 in casinos and 10,000 people directly employed online. The betting and gaming industry contributes £8.7 billion Gross Value Added to the UK economy & contributes £3.2 billion to HM Treasury. In addition, casinos contribute over £120 million to the tourism economy each year.

Betting and gaming is widely enjoyed in the UK. Around 30 million people participate in some sort of gambling, whether that is on the National Lottery, placing a bet in betting shops, playing in casinos or at bingo. The overwhelming majority of these people do so safely without reporting any problems.

Any consideration of gambling licensing at the local level should also be considered within the wider context.

- the overall number of betting shops is in decline. The latest Gambling Commission industry statistics show that the number of betting offices (as of March 2020) was 7681. This is reducing every year and has fallen from a figure of 9137 in March 2014. Covid 19 had a devastating effect on the betting industry. The number of betting offices in June 2020 was down to 6461.
- planning law changes introduced in April 2015 have increased the ability of licensing authorities to review applications for new premises, as all new betting shops must now apply for planning permission.
- In April 2019 a maximum stake of £2 was applied to the operation of fixed odds betting terminals
- successive prevalence surveys and health surveys tells us that problem gambling rates in the UK are stable and possibly falling.

Problem Gambling

Problem gambling rates are static or possibly falling. The reported rate of 'problem gambling' (according to either the DSM-IV or the PGSI) was 0.8% of the adult population in 2015, in 2016 it was 0.7% and in 2018 it was 0.5% of the adult population.

This is termed statistically stable but is encouraging that we might finally be seeing a reduction in problem gambling due to the raft of measures that have been put in place recently both by the

industry, the Gambling Commission and the Government – from a ban on credit cards, restrictions to VIP accounts, new age and identity verification measures and voluntary restrictions on advertising. These rates have remained broadly the same since the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005.

Whilst one problem gambler is too many, both the Government and regulator both say there is no evidence that problem gambling has increased in recent years.

During the Covid-19 period of lockdown, both the Gambling Commission and Government have acknowledged that problem gambling levels have not increased.

In June 2020, the BGC's five largest members committed to increasing the amount they spend on research, education and treatment (RET) services from 0.1 per cent to 0.25 per cent of their annual revenue in 2020, 0.5 per cent in 2021, 0.75 per cent in 2022 and 1 per cent in 2023. The five operators confirmed they will provide £100 million to GambleAware charity to improve treatment services for problem gamblers.

Rates of 'problem gambling' in the UK are low by international standards – compared to France (1.3%), Germany (1.2%), Sweden (2.2%) and Italy (1.27%).

The BGC supported the creation of the new NHS gambling treatment clinics who have promised 22 clinics, 3 of which are open now. We are pleased that the NHS have committed to work to increase the number of clinics in the UK in addition to existing serviced delivered by Gordon Moody Association and GamCare's 120 treatment centres located throughout the UK.

The BGC welcomes the Gambling Commission's National Strategy was a way of accelerating progress on responsible gambling and tackling problem gambling. Our members are fully committed to meeting this challenge and are working tirelessly to deliver new responsible gambling initiatives including technology that tackles problem gambling and supporting a statutory levy and increased funding for problem gambling clinics.

Underage participating by those aged 11-16 in any gambling activity has declined from 22% to 11% over the past decade; here, 'gambling activity' mainly relates to personal betting (e.g. playing cards with friends) and legal play of lotteries (e.g. participating with consent of parents / guardians). BGC members have a zero tolerance to those under the age of 18 attempting to use their products.

Working in partnership with local authorities

The BGC is fully committed to ensuring constructive working relationships exist between betting operators and licensing authorities, and that where problems may arise that they can be dealt with in partnership. The exchange of clear information between councils and betting operators is a key part of this and the opportunity to respond to this consultation is welcomed.

Differentiation between Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 applications

When considering applications for premises licences, it is important that a clear distinction is made between the regimes, processes and procedures established by Gambling Act 2005 and its

regulations and those that are usually more familiar to licensing authorities – the regimes, processes and procedures relating to Licensing Act 2003.

Whilst Licensing Act 2003 applications require applicants to specify steps to be taken to promote the licensing objectives, those steps being then converted into premises licence conditions, there is no such requirement in Gambling Act 2005 applications where the LCCP provide a comprehensive package of conditions for all types of premises licence.

It should continue to be the case that additional conditions in Gambling Act 2005 premises licence applications are only imposed in exceptional circumstances where there are clear reasons for doing so. There are already mandatory and default conditions attached to any premises licence which will ensure operation that is consistent with the licensing objectives. In the vast majority of cases, these will not need to be supplemented by additional conditions.

The LCCP require that premises operate an age verification policy. The industry operates a policy called “Think 21”. This policy is successful in preventing under-age gambling. Independent test purchasing carried out by operators and submitted to the Gambling Commission, shows that ID challenge rates are consistently around 85%.

When reviewing draft statements of principles in the past, we have seen statements of principles requiring the operation of Challenge 25. Unless there is clear evidence of a need to deviate from the industry standard then conditions requiring an alternative age verification policy should not be imposed.

The BGC is concerned that the imposition of additional licensing conditions could become commonplace if there are no clear requirements in the revised licensing policy statement as to the need for evidence. If additional licence conditions are more commonly applied this would increase variation across licensing authorities and create uncertainty amongst operators as to licensing requirements, over complicating the licensing process both for operators and local authorities

Considerations specific to the draft statement of principles 2022 - 2025

On behalf of the BGC, we welcome the acknowledgment that the Council has received no evidence of new trends or concerns in the land based market it regulates, that there has been no increase in problem gambling rates and in the circumstances, the Council proposed not to change its policy.

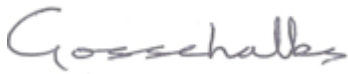
The policy as drafted is light-touch and the only alteration that we suggest is to paragraph 2.3 and 2.3.1. The heading to paragraph 2.3 is “Primary Gambling Activity and Definition of Premises” and in paragraph 2.3.1 there is a reference to “Primary Gambling Activity”. This is a term no longer used by the Gambling Commission and does not now appear in the guidance to licensing authorities. In the circumstances, we suggest that these references are amended.

Conclusion

On behalf of the BGC, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on your draft statement of principles and hope that these comments above are useful.

The BGC will work with you to ensure that its members' operation of its premises will operate in accordance with the licensing objectives.

Yours faithfully,



GOSSCHALKS LLP

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