GAMBLING COMMISSION

Better Local Regulation

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Gambling Act 2005

- Licensing objectives
  - To keep crime out of gambling
  - To ensure that gambling is conducted fairly and openly
  - To protect children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling

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Principles

- Principles based regulation
- 10 BRE key principles
- Hampton but not hardwired into the Act
- Public protection key objective
- Permissive legislation(?)

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Gambling Act 2005 Regime

- Operating licences for operators providing facilities - from the Commission
- Personal licences for those with key responsibilities and casino staff - from the Commission

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Gambling Act 2005 Regime - cont..

- Premises licences - from local licensing authorities LLAs(LAs in England and Wales and Justices in Scotland)
- Range of temporary and occasional use licences and permits and registrations for small value gambling from - LLAs

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Facts and figures

- There are some 4199 gambling operators
  - 1,501 Bookmakers
  - 231 Bingo operators
  - 662 Large lottery providers
  - 99 Casinos
  - 300 Remote operators
  - 937 Arcades
  - 469 Others

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More facts and figures

- Annual industry turnover, over £84 billion
- Approximately 50 companies own 70% of outlets
- Same in all sectors but marked in betting
- Approximately 2,000 very, very small sometimes seasonal operators (mainly bookmakers and arcades)

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Interaction between LLAs and the Commission

- Guidance on gambling regulation (guidance doc living and regularly reviewed)
- Handling premises applications (MOU with LAs and police)
- Joint compliance and enforcement work

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Interaction between LLAs and the Commission – cont...

- Publication of registers of provision
- Most LLAs will only have a handful of gambling outlets and so it is not a common licensing matter (eg West Devon three bookmakers)

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Issues to address from GC perspective

- Separation of roles
- Emerging case law
- Large companies using their leverage across a number of authorities
- Completion of returns to produce registers
- Consistency of advice

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Issues to address from LLA perspective

- Lack of direct support from the Commission
- Inconsistent advice from centre and local staff of the Commission
- Lack of local expertise in gambling issues
- Priority for local resources

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Other Agencies we work with

- Police
- HMRC
- Sports Governing bodies
- Other regulators eg FSA, NLC and OFT
- Overseas gambling regulators
  - Many challenges in priorities and differing approaches

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Conclusions

- Work in progress to develop the multi-agency approach
- Developing relationships at the individual level is crucial
- Don’t assume about others resources/knowledge
- Inconsistency can be the other side of local autonomy, is that OK then?

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The Gambling Commission regulates gambling in the public interest. It does so by keeping crime out of gambling, by ensuring that gambling is conducted fairly and openly, and by protecting children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

The Commission also provides independent advice to government on gambling in Britain.