

**Key points from meeting between the Gaming Board and iGGBA**  
**24<sup>th</sup> May 2005 2:00 pm-4:00pm (Berkshire House)**

***Attendees***

Helen O’Kane (Transition Team)	Peter Nicoll (Victor Chandler)
David Dowsett (Head of Bingo and Casino Sections)	Malcolm Graham (Ritz Interactive)
Cliff Young (Head of Lotteries and Machines Sections)	Wes Himes (iGGBA)
Vickie Bazalgette (Transition Team)	Richard Boardley (Littlewoods)
	Brian Morgan (RAL InterActive)

***Apologies***

Richard Flint (Chairman of iGGBA)  
Andrew Tottenham (iGGBA)

**1. Minutes and Actions update from last meeting**

The group agreed the minutes of the previous meeting, and gave an update on the actions:

- *Secondary legislation*: the group discussed the list of secondary legislation and commencement issues that had been provided by Helen.
- *iGGBA’s licensing testing paper*: Helen suggested that the next step is to arrange a meeting to discuss the paper and other testing issues. The meeting will focus purely on testing and technical issues, but will not be a decision-making forum. It was agreed that both general and technical operating staff would be represented, although it was important to keep numbers low to allow for a detailed discussion.

***Action point May 1***: iGGBA to provide names of technical staff to attend the meeting on testing.

- *Poker networks*: iGGBA members asked that the Board/ Commission consider how to keep regulation of poker providers already regulated by another jurisdiction to a minimum, and suggested that the technical standard of poker software as tested by one jurisdiction could be recognised by the Commission.

## 2. Gaming Board/Gambling Commission transition update (Introductory Guide)

iGGBA members were all provided with a copy of the *Introductory Guide to the Gambling Commission*. The Guide outlines how the transition from Gaming Board to Gambling Commission will be managed and outlines the consultation process. This document marks the first tangible stage in the transition to the Commission and provides public information about the general approach which the Commission will take to licensing, codes of practice etc.

In response to questions, Helen confirmed that:

- remote licences will be issued by the Commission (in case the Guide was unclear on this point);
- the different types of licences can be combined, so long as remote and non-remote types of licences are not combined;
- the Act already provides that any provision of a code relating to social responsibility is a licence condition; and
- as part of the *informal* consultation process, matters to be discussed by the Board/ Commission and iGGBA members will be raised during the regular meetings, during ad hoc meetings or by email.

## 3. Personal Licences

There was a discussion prompted by the information on personal licences under the Act that Helen had circulated to iGGBA members before the meeting. Some key points were made during the discussion:

- conditions on personal licence must be appropriate to professional level;
- Breach of a personal licence condition would not necessarily impact upon the employer's operating licence;
- professional functions should be designated and staff who fulfil these functions should hold personal licences;
- the level of licence being applied for should reflect the depth of probity checks required. David and Cliff explained about current probity checks conducted on personal licence applicants and the distinctions between types of personal licence; and
- under the Act, personal licences issued by the Commission will be portable and the property of the individual, rather than being allocated to the employer as is presently the case. It is likely to be a personal licensing condition that individuals inform the Commission when there is a change of employment.

The issue of who should be licensed was explored. It was pointed out that rather than licensing every individual, it would be more practical to licence crucial groups such as:

- managers responsible for staff who could influence the outcome of gambling ie. managers, supervisors and boards of directors;
- IT staff with key access to gambling software and source codes as well as those with access to the RNG;

- Heads of security and compliance managers who have the highest level of access to funds and internal systems of control;
  - Heads of marketing, finance etc; and
  - Other key staff.
- As far as possible, personal licences must be consistent across industries, with equivalent licences for remote and non-remote sectors.
  - Training is an issue intrinsic to personal licensing, as a licensing condition of the operator's licence will be to ensure that specified roles are filled by personal licence holders.

**Action point May 2:** iGGBA members to provide a generic structure of remote gambling companies to demonstrate the appropriate level of staff who should hold personal licences.

**Action point May 3:** Helen to continue visits to remote gambling operators and call-centres to extend her knowledge of organisation structures.

#### **4. Advertising**

- iGGBA members were keen to establish what provisions for advertising would DCMS/ the Commission introduce that differ from the current regime.
- The Commission will work closely with other advertising regulators (Ofcom, ASA) in order to clearly demarcate the regulation of gambling and the regulation of advertising, and to avoid any clashes of regulatory interest.
- There was a discussion regarding the nature of the placement and content of gambling advertisements.

#### **5. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will focus on testing and technical issues and will have different attendees than usual.

The next meeting of regular attendees will be after the summer period, unless specific issues are raised by either the Board or iGGBA.

#### **Summary of agreed actions**

**Action point May 1:** iGGBA to provide names of technical staff to attend the meeting on testing.

**Action point May 2:** iGGBA members to provide a generic structure of remote gambling companies to demonstrate the appropriate level of staff who should hold personal licences.

**Action point May 3:** Helen to continue visits to remote gambling operators and call-centres to extend her knowledge of organisation structures.

