

## **GAMBLING COMMISSION E-BULLETIN – ISSUE 84**

**19 June 2009**

Welcome to the fortnightly email bulletin from the Gambling Commission (the Commission).

You have registered on our website to receive news and updates from us, and we issue this e-bulletin at fortnightly intervals to keep you up to date.

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### **1. DCMS announces new voluntary deal to fund problem gambling research, education and treatment**

On 9 June Sports Minister Gerry Sutcliffe announced a new voluntary funding arrangement to bring in at least £15 million over the next three years for the research, education and treatment of problem gambling.

Further details have been published in a press release from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

### **2. Changing stake and prize limits for category C and certain types of category D gaming machines**

A statutory instrument increasing the stake and prize limits for category C gaming machines and category D 'crane grab' and 'coin pusher' machines came into force on 10 June 2009. The *Categories of Gaming Machine (Amendment) Regulations 2009* increases the maximum stake and prize limits for category C gaming machines to £1 and £70 respectively. It also increases the maximum stake and prize value for 'crane grab' type machines to £1 and £50, and implements a new maximum prize value for 'coin pusher' type machines of £15 (of which a maximum of £8 can be cash).

### **3. Gaming machine standards - supplement 2**

The Commission has published *Gaming machine standards supplement 2*, which sets out changes to *Machine Standards category C and complex category D* regarding the speed of play and game links for category C machines. This supplement has been notified to the European Commission (EC) and came into force on 12 June.

The supplement sets out the new standards applicable to category C machines operating with a £1 stake and £70 prize (see above). It does not apply to pre-existing gaming machines retaining a 50p stake and £35 prize.

A consultation responses document summarising the responses made and explaining the Commission's position has also been published.

#### **4. Consultation on proposals for Gambling Commission fees from 1 August 2009 closes soon**

DCMS and the Commission are seeking views about the Commission's fees through a consultation. The closing date for responses to the consultation is Tuesday 23 June 2009. Further details of the proposals are available on the DCMS website.

#### **5. Questionnaire development for a longitudinal study of gamblers**

This research project was split into two phases. Phase 1 identified a set of questions that could be used in any future longitudinal research study of gambling behaviour. Phase 2 pre-tested a set of questionnaire instruments relating to those questions.

#### **6. Qualitative follow-up of the British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007**

This exploratory study aims to provide further insight into participants' gambling behaviour, exploring how and when the participants gamble, and what they enjoy about it. It also looked to explore the downsides of gambling, and where problem gambling behaviour is currently (or has been) an issue for participants, to investigate the causes and associated factors.

#### **7. Changes to prize gaming limits**

A statutory instrument changing the limits for prize gaming limits came into force on 11 June. The Gambling Act 2005 (Limits on Prize Gaming) Regulations 2009 increase from 50p to £1 the maximum participation fee that may be charged for any one chance to win a prize in a game. The regulations also impose new limits on the amount or value of prizes for which games may be played. These are now set at £70 for any one game and £500 for an aggregate of all the games.

[Read the statutory instrument...](#)

#### **8. Casino gaming reserve consultation responses**

The Commission has recently published the responses document to the casino gaming reserve consultation. The consultation set out a revised formula for calculating the casino gaming reserve and proposed additional text setting out a requirement for a repayment provision.

The Commission has produced concurrently Licence Conditions and Code of Practice Supplement 6: Casino gaming reserve, which sets out the final specification of the revised licence condition.

The new licence condition will take effect from 1 July 2009.

All licensees affected by the changes will be issued with revised licences.

### **9. Casino monthly census form – reporting requirement removed from the majority of casino premises**

Casinos in permitted areas without outstanding applications under the Gaming Act 1968 will no longer be required to submit a monthly census form. The form includes information on game play during the first full weekend of each month and at peak periods along with the number of tables made available for use.

All casino operators must continue to supply monthly information on drop, win and attendance.