

GAMBLING COMMISSION E-BULLETIN – ISSUE 82

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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. Under-age gambling

The Commission has written to licensed bookmakers to remind them that they must have effective policies and procedures in place to prevent young people under the age of 18 from gambling or entering a betting shop.

This follows a recent mystery shopping exercise undertaken by the Commission throughout England that revealed a disturbing failure rate. The exercise covered all the major betting operators in Great Britain, accounting for around 80% of betting shops, and the initial results show that in 98 of the 100 shops visited a 17 year old was allowed to place a bet at the counter.

2. Advice note on prize competitions and free draws: house competitions

The Commission has issued further advice to people attempting to realise the value of their properties using a house competition scheme, to emphasise that we do not advise on or approve individual house competition schemes.

3. Casino gaming reserve consultation

Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP) contain a requirement that all casino operators hold a gaming reserve to enable them to meet unexpectedly large customer wins.

Following a review of the reserve requirements and discussions with the industry, the Commission has developed a set of proposals to amend the current licence condition (Licence Condition 3.2 Casino gaming reserve).

This consultation closes on 12 June 2009.

4. Survey data on remote gambling participation

This paper provides information on participation in remote forms of gambling for the year to March 2009. It sets out the findings from questions asked through an omnibus survey conducted by [ICM Research](#). The annual data is published quarterly, based on an updated sample of 8,000 interviews.

5. Bill Butler leaves the Commission

Bill Butler, Corporate Services Director at the Commission will be leaving in late July to take up the role of Chief Executive at the Security Industry Authority. Bill joined the Commission in February 2006 as Director of Corporate Services on a fixed term contract specifically to get the Commission up and running.

6. Fees consultation workshop

The joint consultation with DCMS on the Commission's fees has now been published and can be found on the DCMS website.

There is a consultation workshop taking on place on Friday 29 May at the DCMS offices on Cockspur Street, London. We anticipate the workshop will run from 11.00am until 3.30pm. If you are interested in attending please contact [Jessica Loveland](#) at the Gambling Commission.

7. Annual fees deadlines coming up

The bulk of the Commission's annual fee collections happen August – October, so licence holders should be aware that their annual fee may be due shortly.

Operators whose licence was granted on 1 September 2007 will be required to pay their next annual fee by 31 August 2009 at the latest. We will be sending out letters to all our licence holders in due course, saying when their annual fee is due, how much and how to pay.

If a licence holder needs to update their details before then, or anything about their business has changed, please let us know through our notification of change or application to vary a licence forms.

8. Section 19 certificate holders face August deadline for personal licence application

The Commission is reminding employees in the casino and bingo industry who still hold certificates of approval, issued under section 19 of the Gaming Act 1968 (section 19 certificates), to apply for their new personal licence before the end of August 2009.