

GAMBLING COMMISSION E-BULLETIN – ISSUE 87

31 July 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. New Commission website near to completion

The improved version of the www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk website will begin to go live this weekend – a slight delay to the timetable set out a fortnight ago.

This means that you will receive a full e-bulletin on Monday 3 August with updated links to the important updates included here and more stories from the previous two weeks. After this special edition, e-bulletin will continue to come to you on every other Friday afternoon.

Over the next few days, whilst the new website is going live, you may experience some errors with links and we hope you will bear with us while the new website is being installed.

The new website is split more easily into the different gambling sectors following consistent feedback requesting this change. There will also be a new section for licensing authorities. E-bulletin will continue to be delivered to you as normal and any links to the current website will be redirected to the improved homepage.

2. Fee and licence changes from 1 August 2009

New fee arrangements will come into effect tomorrow, on **1 August 2009** following a consultation held jointly with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on fees. The planned changes to operating licence fees, remote general betting licence type, licence categories and banding are introduced by statutory instrument which, following Parliamentary process, is in force from 1 August 2009.

Increased personal licence fees will come into effect on 11 August 2009. The application fees for a personal management licence will be £370 from 11 August 2009 and a personal functional licence will cost £185.

3. Final phasing out of section 34 permits

DCMS are reminding licensing authorities they should be aware that from 31 July 2009, Category D gaming machines will no longer be permitted in general, non-gambling premises such as fish and chip shops, cafes, takeaway premises and mini-cab offices.

Permits for Amusement with Prize (AWP) machines issued by licensing authorities under section 34 of the Gaming Act 1968 will cease to have effect from 31 July 2009. It will therefore be an offence for Category D gaming machines to be offered in non-gambling premises, such as those listed above, from that date. This does not apply to clubs, pubs and bars that are permitted to offer Category C and D gaming machines under the Gambling Act 2005.

The Commission has written to gaming machine manufacturers and suppliers to remind them of the change in the law. This will help reduce the scope for compliant licensed operators to make machine placements that are unintentionally illegal. As part of its ongoing compliance programme the Commission will continue to work with local authorities to take action against those who supply illegally-sited machines.