

GAMBLING COMMISSION E-BULLETIN – ISSUE 83

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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.

If you do not wish to receive future issues, please reply with the word 'UNSUBSCRIBE' in the subject heading.

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1. Key characteristics of bingo

The Commission has published a list of key characteristics for bingo machines, as a result of discussions with a number of gaming machine manufacturers who are developing new machines.

Machines that play bingo are exempt from limits on numbers, and stakes and prizes, but the concern was that some of these bingo machines may not differentiate significantly from gaming machines.

We are content to provide the industry with an opportunity to comply with the arrangements set out in this document on a voluntary basis. However, if this does not prove possible, we will consider a more formal regulatory route.

2. Casino gaming reserve consultation

The casino gaming reserve consultation, which outlines proposed changes to casino operators' reserve requirements, opened on 22 May. This consultation is due to close on Friday 12 June. Please use the responses template provided to set out your reply.

3. Statutory instrument on changing prize gaming limits

A statutory instrument on changing prize gaming limits was laid before Parliament on 20 May 2009 (Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Gambling Act 2005 (Limits on Prize Gaming) Regulations 2009).

4. 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.

5. 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.