

# GAMBLING COMMISSION

## **Conditions and Codes of Practice applicable to Non-remote Bingo Licences**

**Your licence is subject to certain conditions and codes of practice,  
these are detailed in the following pages.**

# Statutory conditions attached by virtue of the Act

## Social responsibility

This licence is subject to a condition that the licensee ensures compliance with any relevant social responsibility provision of a code of practice issued by the Commission. The social responsibility provisions that are relevant to the activities authorised by this licence are set out in the section entitled Codes of Practice. **(Sections 24 and 82(1) Gambling Act 2005)**

## Return of stakes to children

This licence is subject to a condition that if the licensee (or anyone employed by the licensee to perform an operational function within the meaning of section 80 of the Act) becomes aware that a child or young person is using or has used facilities for gambling provided in reliance on the licence, the licensee:

- (a) must return any money paid in respect of the use of those facilities (whether by way of fee, stake or otherwise) by the child or young person as soon as is reasonably practicable; and
- (b) may not give a prize to the child or young person.

This condition does not apply to use of a Category D gaming machine. **(Section 83(1))**

## Other statutory conditions

This licence is subject to a condition that the licensee may not:

- give credit in connection with gambling; or
- participate in, arrange, permit or knowingly facilitate the giving of credit in connection with gambling.

But this condition shall not prevent the licensee from permitting the installation and use on their licensed premises of a machine enabling cash to be obtained on credit from a person (the “credit provider”) provided that:

- the licensee has no other commercial connection with the credit provider in relation to gambling;
- the licensee neither makes nor receives any payment or reward (whether by way of commission, rent or otherwise) in connection with the machine; and
- any conditions about the nature, location or use of the machine which may be attached to this licence by the Commission or by virtue of regulations by the Secretary of State are complied with.

**(Section 81(2))**

# Commission General Conditions

The Commission's complete suite of Licence Conditions to be attached to operating licences pursuant to section 75 of the Act includes some conditions which may not apply to your licence. Where that is the case the irrelevant conditions have not been reproduced below. The full list of Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice are contained within the Commissions Publication "Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice"

## Qualified persons and personal licences

### Qualified persons

#### **The following condition applies to all operating licences issued to small-scale operators**

In this condition the terms 'small-scale operator', 'qualifying position' and 'qualified person' have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by the Gambling Act 2005 (Definition of Small-scale Operator) Regulations 2006.

Schedule X<sup>1</sup> lists those individuals notified to the Commission as qualified persons.

If, whilst the licensee remains a small-scale operator, an individual begins or ceases to occupy a qualifying position in relation to the licensee, the licensee must within 28 days apply to the Commission under s104(1)(b) for amendment of the details of the licence set out in Schedule X.

An application for amendment under s104(1)(b) may be made in advance of an individual beginning or ceasing to occupy a qualifying position provided it specifies the date from which the change to which it relates is to be effective.

### Personal licences

(a) Subject to (e) and (f) below licensees must ensure:

- (i) that each individual who occupies one of the management offices specified in (b) below in or in respect of the licensee or in connection with the licensed activities holds a personal licence authorising the performance of the functions of that office (hereafter 'a personal management licence')
- (ii) that at least one person occupies at least one of those offices.

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<sup>1</sup> The schedules mentioned here will be attached to individual licences.

(b) The specified management offices are those offices (whether or not held by a director in the case of a licensee which is a company, a partner in the case of a licensee which is a partnership or an officer of the association in the case of a licensee which is an unincorporated association) the occupier of which is by virtue of the terms of their appointment responsible for:

- the overall management and direction of the licensee's business or affairs
- the licensee's finance function as head of that function
- the licensee's gambling regulatory compliance function as head of that function
- the licensee's marketing function as head of that function
- the licensee's information technology function as head of that function in so far as it relates to gambling-related information technology and software
- oversight of the day to day management of the licensed activities at an identified number of premises licensed under Part 8 of the Act or across an identified geographical area
- in the case of casino and bingo licences only, oversight of the day to day management of a single set of premises licensed under Part 8 of the Act.

(c) Licensees must take all reasonable steps to ensure that anything done in the performance of the functions of a specified management office is done in accordance with the terms and conditions of the holder's personal management licence.

(d) Where an individual is authorised by a personal licence and that licence comes under review under section 116(2) of the Act, the operating licensee must comply with any conditions subsequently imposed on that licence by the Commission about redeployment, supervision, or monitoring of the individual's work and any requirements of the Commission in respect of such matters applicable during the period of the review.

(e) Paragraphs (a) to (d) above shall not apply to a licensee for so long as the licensee is a 'small-scale operator' as defined in the Gambling Act 2005 (Definition of Small-scale Operator) Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations').

(f) During the period of 3 years commencing with the date on which a licensee ceases to be a small-scale operator paragraphs (a) to (e) above shall apply subject to the proviso that the phrase 'each individual' in paragraph (a)(i) shall not include any individual who was a 'qualified person' (as defined in the Regulations) in relation to the licensee 28 days immediately prior to the licensee ceasing to be a small-scale operator.

## **Technical standards and equipment specifications**

Licensees must comply with the Commission's specifications for bingo equipment.

## **Financial robustness**

### **Notification of shareholders**

All company licensees must notify the Commission of the name and address of any person who becomes a shareholder in the company or its holding company holding 3% or more of the issued share capital of the company or its holding company; or any existing shareholder who acquires a holding of 3% or more of the issued share capital of the company or its holding company.

In this condition 'holding company' has the meaning ascribed to that term by section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof.

### **Protection of customer funds**

Licensees who hold customer funds for use in future gambling must set out clearly, in information made available to customers in writing, whether they protect customers' funds in the event of insolvency and the method by which this is achieved.

### **Cash handling**

Licensees, as part of their internal controls and financial accounting systems, must have and put into effect policies and procedures concerning the handling of cash, and cash equivalents (ie bankers drafts, cheques and debit cards), designed to minimise the risk of crimes such as money laundering, to avoid the giving of illicit credit and to provide assurance that gambling activities are being conducted fairly.

### **General 'fair and open' provisions**

Licensees must satisfy themselves that the terms on which gambling is offered are not unfair under the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999 and, where applicable, meet the reasonableness test under the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977. An accurate summary of the contractual terms on which gambling is offered must be made available to customers and set out in plain and intelligible language.

Customers must be notified of changes to terms before they come into effect.

### **Types and rules of casino and other games**

Licensees must not offer or permit to be played games that appear on any list of proscribed prize gaming games issued by the Commission.

## Access to premises

Licensees must have and put into effect policies and procedures (including staff training programmes) designed to ensure that their staff co-operate with the Commission's enforcement officers in the proper performance of their compliance functions and are made aware of those officers' rights of entry to premises contained in Part 15 of the Act.

## Information requirements

### Reporting suspicion of offences etc

Licensees must provide the Commission with any information that they know relates to or suspect may relate to the commission of an offence under the Act, including an offence resulting from a breach of a licence condition or a code provision having the effect of a licence condition.

### Reporting 'Key Events'

A key event is an event that could have a significant impact on the nature or structure of a licensee's business. Licensees must notify the Commission of the occurrence of any of the following key events as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within five working days of the licensee becoming aware of the event's occurrence<sup>2</sup>.

- in the case of licensees which are companies, a petition being presented for their winding up or the winding up of any group company of theirs, or they or any group company being placed in administration or receivership: in this condition a 'group company' is any subsidiary or holding company of the licensee – as those terms are defined in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof – and any subsidiary of such holding company
- in the case of a licensee who is an individual (or a partner in a partnership licensee) their being presented with a petition for their bankruptcy or sequestration or their entering into an individual voluntary agreement
- where the licensee is required to have their accounts independently audited, any unplanned change of auditor including a change prompted by a dispute or resulting from auditors being unable or unwilling to sign an unqualified audit report
- the departure from the licensee's business of any person occupying a 'qualifying position' as defined by Regulation 2(2) of the Gambling Act 2005 (Definition of Small-scale Operator) Regulations 2006
- any breach of a covenant given to a bank or other lender
- any default in making repayment of the whole or any part of a loan on its due date
- any court judgments remaining unpaid 14 days after the date of judgment
- the commencement of any material litigation against the licensee

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<sup>2</sup> Key events can be reported securely online at the Commission's website at [www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk) or by email to [key.events@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:key.events@gamblingcommission.gov.uk) or posted to Key Events, Compliance Administration Team, Gambling Commission, Victoria Square House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B2 4BP

- the imposition of a disciplinary sanction, including dismissal, against the holder of a personal licence or a person occupying a qualifying position for gross misconduct; or the resignation of a personal licence holder or person occupying a qualifying position following commencement of disciplinary proceedings in respect of gross misconduct against that person
- in the case of remote gambling, the commencement or cessation of trading on website domains (including WAP URLs) or broadcast media through which the licensee provides gambling facilities.

## General and Regulatory Returns

On request, licensees must provide the Commission with such information as the Commission may require about the use made of facilities provided in accordance with this licence, and the manner in which gambling authorised by this licence and the licensee's business in relation to that gambling are carried on, including in particular information about:

- the numbers of people making use of the facilities and the frequency of such use
- the range of gambling activities provided by the licensee and the numbers of staff employed in connection with them
- the licensee's policies in relation to, and experiences of, problem gambling.

In particular within 28 days of the end of each quarterly period or, for those only submitting annual returns, within 42 days of the end of each annual period, licensees must submit a Regulatory Return to the Commission containing such information as the Commission may from time to time require.<sup>3</sup>

## Primary gambling activity

Gaming machines may be made available for use in licensed bingo premises only on those days when sufficient facilities for playing bingo are also available for use.

In cases where bingo is exclusively offered by means of electronic bingo terminals or bingo machines, there must be more individual player positions made available for bingo than there are gaming machines made available for use.

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<sup>3</sup> Regulatory returns can be submitted securely online at the Commission's website at [www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk). For operators unable to access this system, the forms and a guide to completing them can be requested from the Commission and returned by email to [Regulatory>Returns@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:Regulatory>Returns@gamblingcommission.gov.uk) or by post to Regulatory Returns, Compliance Administration Team, Gambling Commission, Victoria Square House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B2 4BP

# Secretary of State General Conditions

## Condition to be attached to bingo operating licences in respect of prize gaming

- (1) The amount charged by way of participation fee in respect of any one chance to win a prize in a particular game does not exceed £1.
- (2) Where in paying for a chance to win a prize in a game a person acquires the chance to win more than one prize, the limit in paragraph (1) shall apply despite the fact that the chance provides the opportunity to win more than one prize.
- (3) The aggregate amount of the participation fees charged for participating in a particular game does not exceed £500.
- (4) Where a prize for which a game is played is money, the amount of that prize does not exceed:
  - (a) £100, if no person under the age of 18 years is permitted to be on the premises at any time when the game is being played, and
  - (b) £70, in all other cases.
- (5) For the purposes of paragraph (4)(a) above, no account shall be taken of any person under the age of 18 years who is permitted to be on the premises if:
  - (a) they are employed to perform any function on the premises, and
  - (b) they are on the premises in the course of their employment.

Any reference to the premises is to the licensed bingo premises in which the game referred to in paragraph (4) is being played.

- (6) The aggregate amount or value of the prizes for which a game is played does not exceed £500.

### **(Regulation 3 of the Gambling Act 2005 (Operating Licence Conditions) Regulations 2007)**

# Codes of practice

## Introduction

This is the Commission's principal code of practice, issued under section 24 of the Gambling Act 2005, as revised with effect from 1 January 2009. There are two types of provision in the code:

- social responsibility provisions: compliance with these is a condition of licences; therefore any breach of them by an operator may lead the Commission to review the operator's licence with a view to suspension, revocation or the imposition of a financial penalty and would also expose the operator to the risk of prosecution; and
- ordinary code provisions: these do not have the status of licence conditions, but are admissible in evidence in criminal or civil proceedings and must be taken into account in any case in which the court or tribunal think them relevant and by the Commission in the exercise of its functions. Any breach of ordinary code provisions by an operator may be taken into account by the Commission on a licence review, but cannot lead to imposition of a financial penalty. These code provisions are in italics in this section and generally set out good practice in these areas.

## Financial requirements

### Ordinary code provision

In order to help prevent activities related to money laundering licensees should take into account the Commission's advice on the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, *Duties and responsibilities under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. Advice for operators (excluding casino operators)*.

## Protection of children and other vulnerable persons

### Combating problem gambling

#### Social responsibility code provision

Licensees must have and put into effect policies and procedures intended to promote socially responsible gambling.

Licensees' policies and procedures for socially responsible gambling must include but need not be confined to:

- the specific policies and procedures required by the following provisions of section 2 of this code
- a commitment to and how they will contribute to research into the prevention and treatment of problem gambling
- a commitment to and how they will contribute to public education on the risks of gambling and how to gamble safely
- a commitment to and how they will contribute to the identification and treatment of problem gamblers.

## **Access to gambling by children and young persons**

### **Social responsibility code provision**

Licensees must have and put into effect policies and procedures designed to prevent underage gambling, and monitor the effectiveness of these.

This must include procedures for:

- checking the age of apparently underage customers
- refusing entry to any adult-only areas to anyone unable to produce an acceptable form of identification
- taking action when there are unlawful attempts to enter the adult-only areas.

Licensees must not permit children or young people to gamble in the adults-only areas of premises to which they have access. If there is a 'no under-18s' premises policy, licensees must pay particular attention to the procedures they use at the entrance to the premises to check customers' ages.

Licensees must take all reasonable steps to ensure that all staff understand their responsibilities for preventing underage gambling, returning stakes and not paying prizes to underage customers and particularly for challenging any adult who may be complicit in allowing a child or young person to gamble.

Licensees must only accept identification which:

- contains a photograph from which the individual can be identified
- states the individual's date of birth
- is valid
- is legible and has no visible signs of tampering or reproduction.

### **Ordinary code provision**

The Commission considers acceptable forms of identification to include: any identification carrying the PASS logo (for example Citizencard or Validate); a driving licence (including a provisional licence) with photocard; or a passport.

Licensees should require a person who appears to relevant staff to be under the age of 21 to be asked to produce proof of age, either at the point of entry to the gambling area or as soon as it comes to the attention of staff that they wish to access gambling facilities.

Licensees should have procedures for dealing with cases where an adult knowingly or recklessly allows a child or young person to gamble. These procedures might include refusing to allow the adult to continue to gamble, removing them from the premises, and reporting the incident to the police or local authorities, or taking action where forged identification is produced.

Procedures should be put into effect for dealing with cases where a child or young person repeatedly attempts to gamble on their premises, including oral warnings, reporting the offence to the Gambling Commission and the police, and making available information on problem gambling to the child or young person concerned.

Where it is likely that customers' young or otherwise vulnerable children will be left unattended on or adjacent to their premises, licensees should consider reminding customers of their parental responsibilities and assess whether there is a need to develop procedures for minimising the risk to such children.

## **Information on how to gamble responsibly and help for problem gamblers**

### **Social responsibility code provision**

Licensees must make information readily available to their customers on how to gamble responsibly and how to access information about, and help in respect of, problem gambling.

The information must cover:

- any measures provided by the licensee to help individuals monitor or control their gambling, such as restricting the duration of a gambling session or the amount of money they can spend
- timers or other forms of reminders or 'reality checks' where available
- self-exclusion options
- information about the availability of further help or advice.

The information must be directed to all customers whether or not licensees also make available material which is directed specifically at customers who may be 'problem gamblers'.

For gambling premises, information must be available in all areas where gambling facilities are provided and adjacent to ATMs where these are not located in a gambling area. As a minimum, information must be displayed prominently on posters appropriate to the size and layout of the premises and contained in leaflets that may be taken away. Licensees must take all reasonable steps to ensure that this information is also readily accessible in locations which enable the customer to obtain it discreetly.

### **Ordinary code provision**

Licensees who market their services in one or more foreign languages should make available in that, or those, foreign languages:

- the information on how to gamble responsibly and access to help referred to above
- the players' guides to any game, bet or lottery required to be made available to customers under provisions in this code
- the summary of the contractual terms on which gambling is offered, which is required to be provided to customers as a condition of the licensee's operating licence.

## **Customer interaction**

### **Social responsibility code provision**

Licensees must put into effect policies and procedures for customer interaction where they have concerns that a customer's behaviour may indicate problem gambling. The policies must include:

- identification of the appropriate level of management who may initiate customer interaction and the procedures for doing so
- the types of behaviour that will be logged/reported to the appropriate level of staff and which may trigger customer interaction at an appropriate moment
- the circumstances in which consideration should be given to refusing service to customers and/or barring them from the operator's gambling premises
- training for all staff on their respective responsibilities, in particular so that they know who is designated to deal with problem gambling issues.

But such policies and procedures must be consistent with, and implemented with due regard to, licensees' duties in respect of the health and safety of their staff.

## **Self-exclusion**

### **Social responsibility code provision**

Licensees must have and put into effect procedures for self-exclusion and take all reasonable steps to refuse service or to otherwise prevent an individual who has entered a self-exclusion agreement from participating in gambling.

Licensees must, as soon as practicable, take all reasonable steps to prevent any marketing material being sent to a self-excluded customer.

Licensees must take steps to remove the name and details of a self-excluded individual from any marketing databases used by the company or group (or otherwise flag that person as an individual to whom marketing material must not be sent), within two days of receiving the completed self-exclusion notification.

This covers any marketing material relating to gambling, or other activities that take place on the premises where gambling may take place. However, it would not extend to blanket marketing which is targeted at a particular geographical area and where the excluded individual would not knowingly be included.

Licensees must close any customer accounts of an individual who has entered a self exclusion agreement and return any funds held in the customer account. It is not sufficient merely to prevent an individual from withdrawing funds from their customer account whilst still accepting wagers from them. Where the giving of credit is permitted, the licensee may retain details of the amount owed to them by the individual, although the account must not be active.

Licensees must put into effect procedures designed to ensure that an individual who has self-excluded cannot gain access to gambling. These procedures must include:

- a register of those excluded with appropriate records (name, address, other details, and any membership or account details that may be held by the operator)

- photo identification (where available and in particular where enforcement of the system may depend on photographic ID), and a signature
- staff training to ensure that staff are able to enforce the systems
- the removal of those persons found in the gambling area or attempting to gamble from the premises.

### **Ordinary code provision**

Self-exclusion procedures should require individuals to take positive action in order to self-exclude. This can be a signature on a self-exclusion form.

Wherever practicable, individuals should be able to self-exclude without having to enter gambling premises.

Before an individual self-excludes, licensees should provide or make available sufficient information about what the consequences of self-exclusion are.

Licensees should take all reasonable steps to extend the self-exclusion to premises of the same type owned by the operator in the customer's local area. In setting the bounds of that area licensees may take into account the customer's address (if known to them), anything else known to them about the distance the customer ordinarily travels to gamble and any specific request the customer may make.

Licensees should encourage the customer to consider extending their self exclusion to other licensees' gambling premises in the customer's local area.

Customers should be given the opportunity to discuss self-exclusion in private, where possible.

Licensees should take steps to ensure that:

- the self-exclusion period is a minimum of six months and give customers the option of extending this to a total of at least five years
- a customer who has decided to enter a self-exclusion agreement is given the opportunity to do so immediately without any cooling-off period. However, if the customer wishes to consider the self-exclusion further (for example to discuss with problem gambling groups) the customer may return at a later date to enter into self-exclusion
- at the end of the period chosen by the customer (and at least six months later), the self-exclusion remains in place, unless the customer takes positive action in order to gamble again. No marketing material should be sent to the individual unless the individual has taken positive action in order to gamble again, and has agreed to accept such material
- where a customer chooses not to renew the self-exclusion, and makes a positive request to begin gambling again, the customer is given one day to cool off before being allowed access to gambling facilities. The contact must be made via telephone or in person.

The licensee should retain the records relating to a self-exclusion agreement at least until the agreement has been formally ended.

(Please note that the Commission does not require the licensee to carry out any particular assessment or make any judgement as to whether the previously self-excluded individual should again be permitted access to gambling. The requirement to take positive action in person or over the phone is purely to a) check that the customer has considered the decision to access gambling again and allow them to consider the implications; and b) implement the one day cooling-off period and explain why this has been put in place.)

## **Employment of children and young persons**

### **Ordinary code provision**

Licensees who employ children (under-16-year-olds) and young persons (those aged 16 or 17) should be aware that it is an offence:

- a) to employ them to provide facilities for playing bingo;
- b) for their contracts of employment to require them, or for them to be permitted, to perform a function in connection with a gaming machine; and
- c) to employ a child to perform any function on premises where, and at a time when, facilities are being provided for playing bingo.

As to b) it should be noted that in the Commission's view the relevant provision of the Act applies to any function performed in connection with a gaming machine. This includes servicing or cleaning such a machine.

Accordingly, licensees should have and put into effect policies and procedures designed to ensure that:

- children and young persons are never asked to perform tasks within a) or b) above
- all staff, including those who are children and young persons themselves, are instructed about the laws relating to access to gambling by children and young persons

and should consider adopting a policy that:

- children are not employed to work on bingo licensed premises at any time when the premises are open for business
- neither children nor young persons are in any event asked to work in areas where gaming machines are situated.

## **Money lending between customers**

### **Ordinary code provision**

Licensees should seek to prevent systematic or organised money lending between customers on their premises. As a minimum, they should have arrangements in place to ensure staff are requested to report any instances of substantial money lending when they become aware of them.

## **‘Fair and open’ provisions**

### **Social responsibility code provision**

Licensees must be able to provide evidence to the Commission, if required, showing how they satisfied themselves that their terms are not unfair.

### **Social responsibility code provision**

In complying with any condition on a bingo premises licence requiring the display of rules about gaming, licensees must ensure that the following are included:

- rules about each variant of bingo made available
- rules about any prize gaming made available.

## **Marketing**

### **Social responsibility code provision**

If a licensee makes available to any customer or potential customer any incentive or reward scheme or other arrangement under which the customer may receive money, goods, services or any other advantage (including the discharge in whole or in part of any liability of his) ('the benefit') the scheme must be designed to operate, and be operated, in such a way that:

- a) the circumstances in which, and conditions subject to which, the benefit is available are clearly set out and readily accessible to the customers to whom it is offered;
- b) neither the receipt nor the value or amount of the benefit is:
  - (i) dependent on the customer gambling for a pre-determined length of time or with a pre-determined frequency; or
  - (ii) altered or increased if the qualifying activity or spend is reached within a shorter time than the whole period over which the benefit is offered;
- c) if the value of the benefit increases with the amount the customer spends it does so at a rate no greater than that at which the amount spent increases;

and further that:

- d) if the benefit comprises free or subsidised travel or accommodation which facilitates the customer's attendance at particular licensed premises the terms on which it is offered are not directly related to the level of the customer's prospective gambling.

### **Ordinary code provision**

Licensees should only offer incentive or reward schemes in which the benefit available is proportionate to the type and level of customers' gambling.

## **Social responsibility code provision**

If licensees offer customers free or discounted alcoholic drinks for consumption on the premises they must do so on terms which do not in any way link the availability of such drinks to whether, or when, the customer begins, or continues, to gamble.

Licensees must not make unsolicited offers of free alcoholic drinks for immediate consumption by customers at a time when they are participating in a casino game, bingo game or playing a gaming machine.

## **Ordinary code provision**

All advertising of gambling products and services should be undertaken in a socially responsible manner. In particular, licensees should comply with the advertising codes of practice which apply to the form and media in which they advertise their gambling facilities or services, and for media not explicitly covered should apply the principles included in these codes of practice as if they were explicitly covered. Licensees should also follow any relevant industry code of practice on advertising.

However, the particular restriction on allowing people aged under 25 to appear in adverts need not be applied to point of sale advertising material, provided that the images used depict the sporting activity that may be gambled on and not the activity of gambling itself and do not offend any other aspect of the advertising codes.

# **Complaints and disputes**

## **Social responsibility code provision**

Licensees must put into effect a written procedure for handling customer complaints and disputes.

In this code a 'complaint' means a complaint about any aspect of the licensee's conduct of the licensed activities, and a 'dispute' is any complaint which:

- a) is not resolved at the first stage of the complaints procedure; and
- b) relates to the outcome of the complainant's gambling transaction.

Licensees must ensure that:

- customers are told the name and status of the person to contact about their complaint
- customers are given a copy of the complaints procedure on request or on making a complaint
- all complaints are handled in accordance with the procedure.

Licensees must also ensure that they have arrangements in place for disputes to be referred to an independent third party. Customers whose disputes are not resolved to their satisfaction by use of the operator's complaints procedure may refer those disputes to this independent third party. The arrangements under which such complaints are referred may, but need not, provide for the third party's decision to be binding on the licensee and the customer.

Licensees must keep a record of all complaints that are not resolved at the first stage of the complaints procedure.

Licensees must arrange for a copy of the decision on, or a note of the outcome of, each dispute referred to the independent party to be provided to the Commission quarterly, either by the independent party or by the licensee.

## **Gambling licensees' staff**

### **Social responsibility code provision**

Licensees must take all reasonable steps to ensure that staff involved in the provision of facilities for gambling are made aware of advice on socially responsible gambling and of where to get confidential advice should their gambling become hard to control.

## **Information requirements**

### **Ordinary code provision**

The Commission expects licensees to work with the Commission in an open and cooperative way and to inform the Commission of any matters that the Commission would reasonably need to be aware of in exercising its regulatory functions. These are matters that will have a material impact on the licensee's business or on the licensee's ability to conduct its business. Such matters, which should be notified to the Commission as soon as reasonably practicable<sup>4</sup>, include the following:

- the departure from the licensee's business of any person named in the licence application, or that person's successor, who holds a personal management licence, but who does not occupy a 'qualifying position'
- any reduction in the number of staff employed by the licensee where that has a material impact on the licensee's business
- the acquisition or disposal by the licensee of gambling premises or pitches where that has a material impact on the size or nature of the licensee's business
- in the case of corporate licensees, the disposal or acquisition of any group company where that has a material impact on the licensee's ability to conduct its business
- any disposal of the licensee's assets where that has a material impact on the licensee's business
- any investigation by a professional, statutory, regulatory or government body into the licensee's activities, or the activities in relation to the licensed entity of a personal licence holder or a person occupying a qualifying position employed by them, where such an investigation could result in the imposition of a sanction or penalty which, if imposed, could reasonably be expected to raise doubts about the licensee's continued suitability to hold a Gambling Commission licence
- any instance of criminal activity, including repeated instances of small-scale theft or fraud, where that has a material impact on the licensee's business
- any major breach in the licensee's information security where that adversely affects the confidentiality of customer data or prevents customers from accessing their accounts for a substantial period of time
- any other matters that have a material impact on the licensee's business or on the licensee's ability to conduct its business.

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<sup>4</sup> These matters can be reported securely online at the Commission's website at [www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk) or by email to [key.events@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:key.events@gamblingcommission.gov.uk) or posted to Key Events, Compliance Administration Team, Gambling Commission, Victoria Square House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B2 4BP

# Primary gambling activity

## Ordinary code provision

In order to demonstrate that the primary gambling activity for which an operating licence has been issued is being offered in each licensed premises, licensees should have regard to the following general factors:

- the ratio of the space available to customers allocated to the primary gambling activity, to that allocated to other gambling activities
- the extent to which the primary gambling activity is promoted on the premises and by way of external advertising compared to other gambling activities
- the use, either expected or actual, to be made of the different gambling facilities

Licensees should also have regard to the following additional sector specific factors:

## Ordinary code provision

The frequency and extent that bingo is, or is intended to be played on the premises, compared with the periods when the premises are open whether there is:

- capacity on the premises for the generation of main stage bingo numbers
- a facility to sell tickets or cards for bingo games on the premises
- bingo available to be played whenever sessions are advertised
- display of prize board information
- a means of stopping a game to claim a win.

Not all the indicators would need to be present in a particular case, nor do they preclude others, but the combination of those factors that are present should be sufficient to indicate that the activity is the primary one in any given premises.