

07/08/09/10

Licensing authority statistics

1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010

**GAMBLING
COMMISSION**

Contents

Introduction	3
Gambling Commission	3
Licensing authorities	3
Licensing authority returns	3
Statistics	4
Permits and notices	4
Visits	5
Tables	8
Appendix A	8
Appendix B	9
Glossary	10

Introduction

Gambling Commission

The Gambling Commission (the Commission) was set up under the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) to regulate commercial gambling in Great Britain. The Gambling Act 2005 came fully into force on 1 September 2007. The Commission is an independent non-departmental public body (NDPB) sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The Commission regulates commercial gambling in Great Britain, including:

- arcades
- betting
- bingo
- casinos
- gaming machine manufacturers and suppliers
- gambling software providers
- lottery operators and external lottery managers
- British-based remote gambling operators

The Commission does not regulate spread betting, this is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, nor the National Lottery which is the responsibility of the National Lottery Commission¹.

Licensing authorities

The Gambling Act 2005 designates certain classes of local authorities in England and Wales (and licensing boards in Scotland) as licensing authorities.

Licensing authorities, as co-regulators, have a number of important regulatory functions in relation to licensing premises for gambling as reflected in the Concordat and protocols for England and Wales. Licensing authorities, along with having a duty to uphold the Act and protect the licensing objectives, have the following responsibilities at a local level:

- issuing premises licences
- regulating gaming and gaming machines in clubs, and on alcohol licensed premises
- granting permits to family entertainment centres for the use of category D gaming machines
- granting permits for prize gaming
- registering small society lotteries
- granting temporary and occasional use notices

For further information on permits and notices please refer to the glossary.

Licensing authority returns

The Commission annually collates information recorded by licensing authorities in the course of their responsibilities under the Act that reflects local gambling related activity. The purpose of this collation is to monitor the impact of the Act on the Commission's regulatory partners as part of the Commission's statutory responsibility to provide information and advice to central government. This also provides information to help licensing authorities benchmark their position and provide understanding in the context of the national picture. The information collected will continue to inform the Commission's ongoing understanding of the licensing regime.

The Commission continues to work with stakeholders and regulatory partners in order to maximise the efficiency of data collection. In 2009 it was agreed with licensing authorities to amend the content of some of the information provided. This document therefore provides a summary of the information collated for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 only. It is intended that future bulletins will offer an analysis of trends by comparing the information collected with that of previous years.

¹ In 2010, the government announced that the Gambling Commission and the National Lottery Commission were to merge. The merger is expected by the end of 2012, preceded by collocation to Birmingham.

Statistics

378 licensing authorities within Great Britain provided the requested information for the 2009/10 year. Only two licensing authorities did not submit any information.

Permits and notices

Please see the glossary for further information on permits and notices.

In 2009/10, an additional 10,286 premises licensed for alcohol consumption took up their gaming machine automatic entitlement. During the same period, 2,153 alcohol licensed premises were granted a gaming machine permit, resulting in at least 28,803 alcohol licensed premises being permitted to site gaming machines in Great Britain and 5,755 issued with permits entitling them to additional machine provision as at 31 March 2010.

Licensing authorities in Great Britain issued 4,127 gambling related permits during 2009/10. The gaming machine permits for alcohol licensed premises accounted for the majority of permits issued (52%) followed by club machine permits (38%) and club gaming permits (4%), as shown in figure 1.

There were 1,555 club machine permits issued by licensing authorities during 2009/10 resulting in 3,234 clubs entitled to site gaming machines.

88 licensing authorities issued club gaming permits in 2009/10. There were 183 club gaming permits issued during this period resulting in 496 clubs permitted to site gaming machines and provide equal-chance gaming and games of chance under certain restrictions.

There were 137 unlicensed FEC prize gaming permits issued in 2009/10 by 30 licensing authorities resulting in 583 unlicensed FECs entitled to provide prize gaming across 76 authority areas.

There were 95 FEC gaming machine permits issued during 2009/10 by 46 licensing authorities. As a result there are now 830 FECs entitled to site gaming machines across 162 authority areas.

There were four travelling fair prize gaming permits issued during 2009/10 by two licensing authorities, resulting in 32 travelling fair permits issued as at 31 March 2010, across seven licensing authority areas.

There were 374 occasional use notices (OUN) covering 445 days and 16 temporary use notices (TUN) covering 26 days issued during 2009/10. 76 licensing authorities issued OUNs with 176 notices being issued by only five authorities. In total five authorities issued TUNs.

There were 12 gambling related permits or notices issued on average by each licensing authority during 2009/10, with 27 issuing 100 or more. Figure 4 (page 6) reflects the distribution of permits and notices issued, per 1000 head of population, across Great Britain's local authorities.

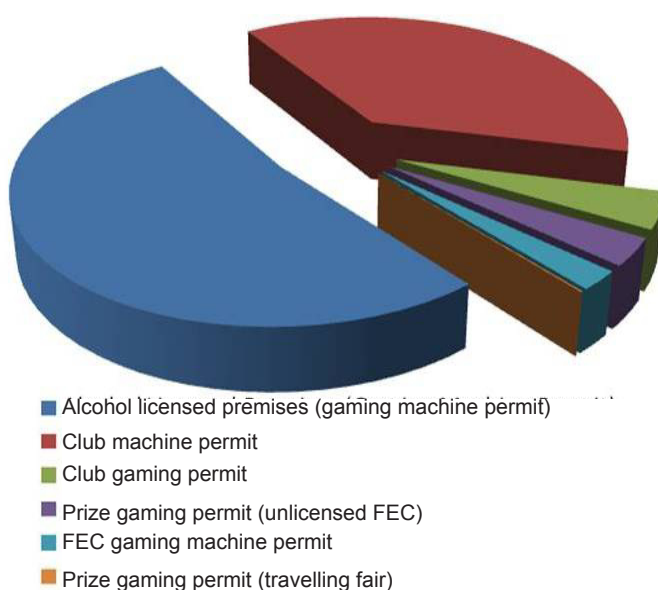


Figure 1: permits issued by licensing authorities

Statistics

Visits

During 2009/10, licensing authorities visited 6,779 premises as part of their regulatory responsibility for gambling. Of these, 3,190 visits were at premises where the operator is licensed by the Commission and regulated by the Act (ie arcades, bookmakers, bingo halls, casinos and race tracks).

227 licensing authorities conducted visits, with 202 visiting the premises of operators regulated by the Act. Those authorities that visited premises of operators regulated by the Act visited on average up to 37% of all gambling premises within their areas; although this varied quite considerably with 19 licensing authorities reporting more visits than the number of premises within their estate and 46 licensing authorities visiting fewer than one in ten gambling premises within their estate.

Once visits to 'other' premises are removed, licensing authorities visited more betting shops than any other premises type (61%), followed by arcade (31%), bingo (5%) and casino (1%) premises.

Again, once visits to 'other' premises have been removed, most visits were pre-planned (84%). 232 visits were classed as 'follow up' (7%) and 197 regarded test-purchase exercises (6%).

Of those visits classed as 'other' the clear majority involved pre-planned work (86%).

There were 194 visits following a complaint (5%) and 291 regarding 'follow up' work (8%).

Overall there were 75 visits in response to a complaint recorded by licensing authorities which represented 2% of the total number of visits. 32 'complaint' visits related to adult gaming centres and 25 concerned betting premises.

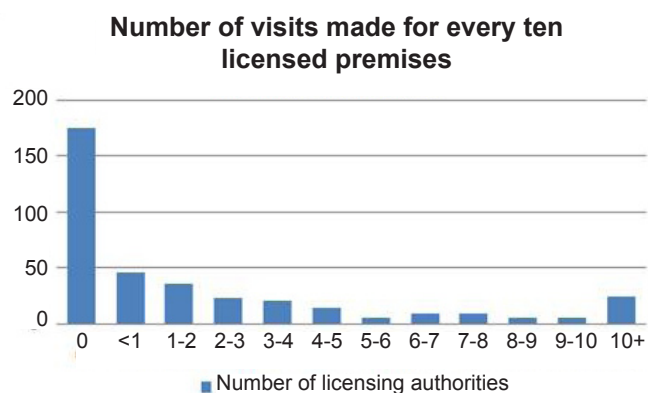


Figure 2: number of licensing authority visits by gambling premises

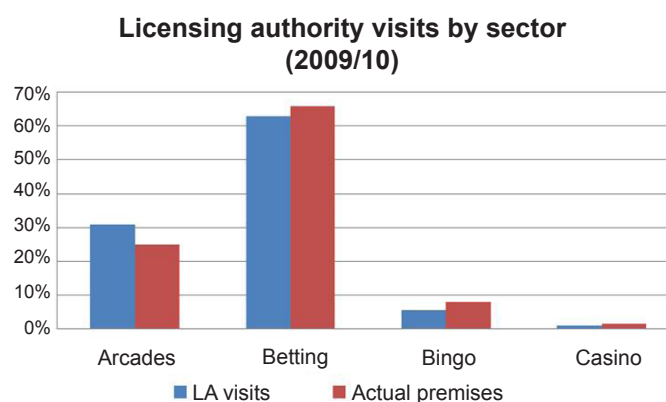
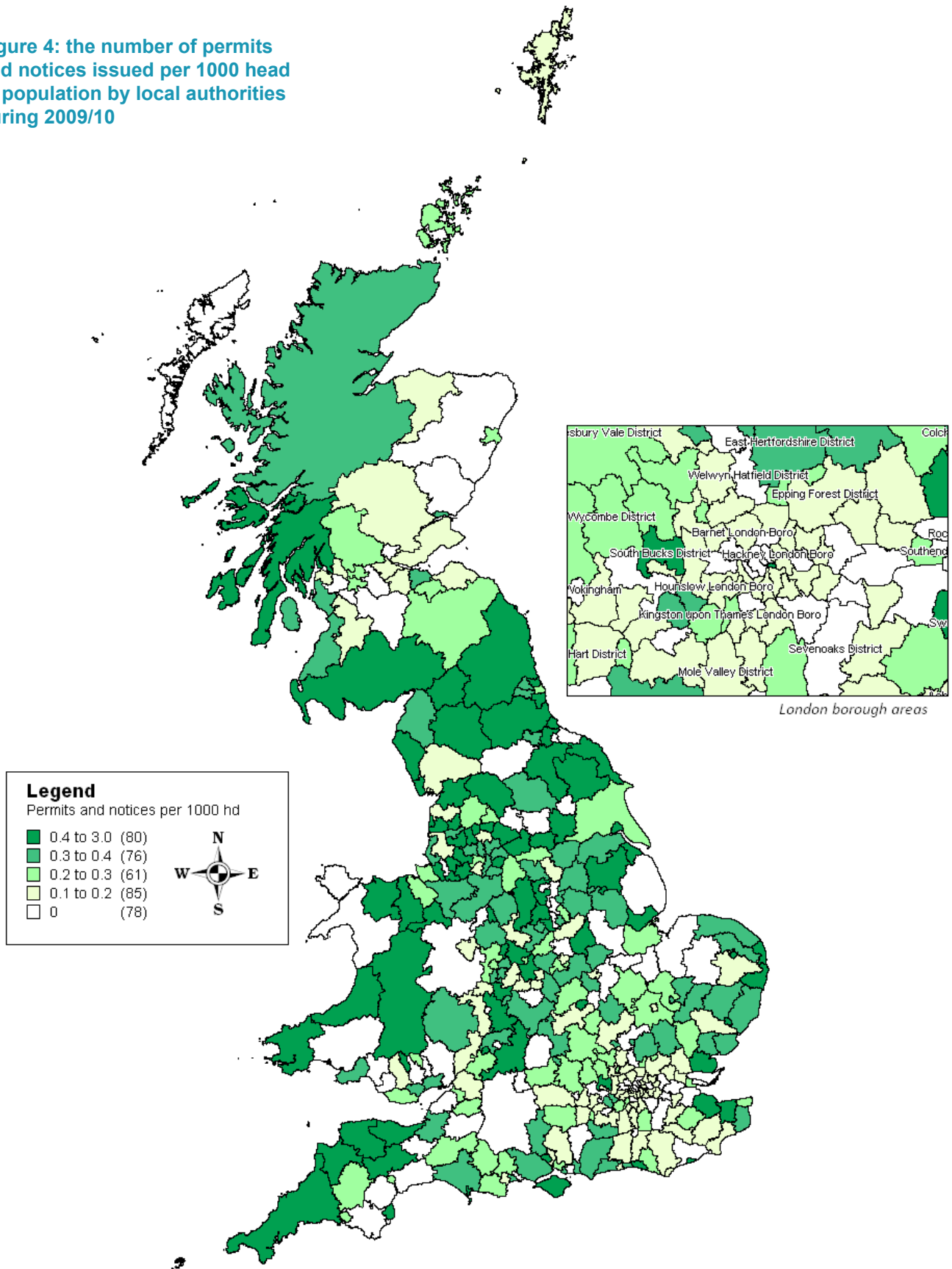


Figure 3: licensing authority visits by sector

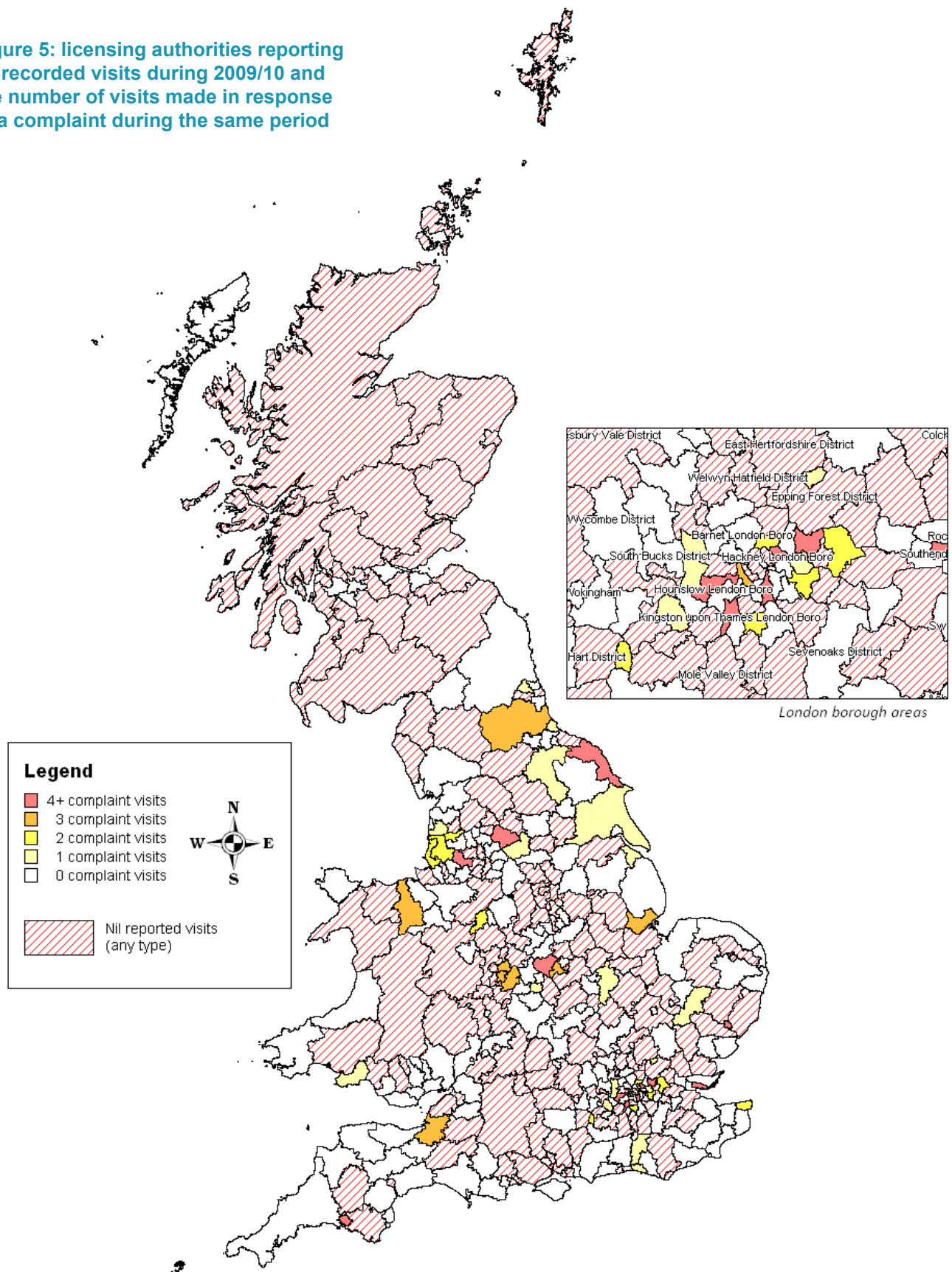
Statistics

Figure 4: the number of permits and notices issued per 1000 head of population by local authorities during 2009/10



Statistics

Figure 5: licensing authorities reporting nil recorded visits during 2009/10 and the number of visits made in response to a complaint during the same period



Tables

Appendix A

Permits or notices issued	Issued 2009/10	Total issued as at 31 March 2010
Alcohol licensed premises (automatic machine entitlement)	10,286	28,803
Alcohol licensed premises (gaming machine permit)	2,153	5,755
Club machine permit	1,555	3,234
Occasional use notice	374	-
Club gaming permit	183	496
Prize gaming permit (unlicensed FEC)	137	583
FEC gaming machine permit	95	830
Temporary use notice	16	-
Prize gaming permit (travelling fair)	4	32
Total	14,803	39,733

Number of visits made for every ten licensed premises (2009/10)	Number of licensing authorities
0	175
<1	46
1 – 1.9	36
2 – 2.9	23
3 – 3.9	21
4 – 4.9	14
5 – 5.9	6
6 – 6.9	9
7 – 7.9	9
8 – 8.9	5
9 – 9.9	6
10+	24
Total	374

NB in addition to the two licensing authorities that have not submitted a return, a further four do not have any gambling premises to visit.

Gambling related licensing authority visits (2009/10)					
Sector	Pre-planned	Following complaint	Follow up	Test purchasing	Total
AGC	550	32	79	85	746
Betting	1,704	25	106	110	1,945
Bingo	149	5	19	2	175
Casino	31	1	0	0	32
FEC	199	10	26	0	235
Tracks	53	2	2	0	57
Other	3,096	194	291	8	3,589
Total	5,782	269	523	205	6,779

Tables

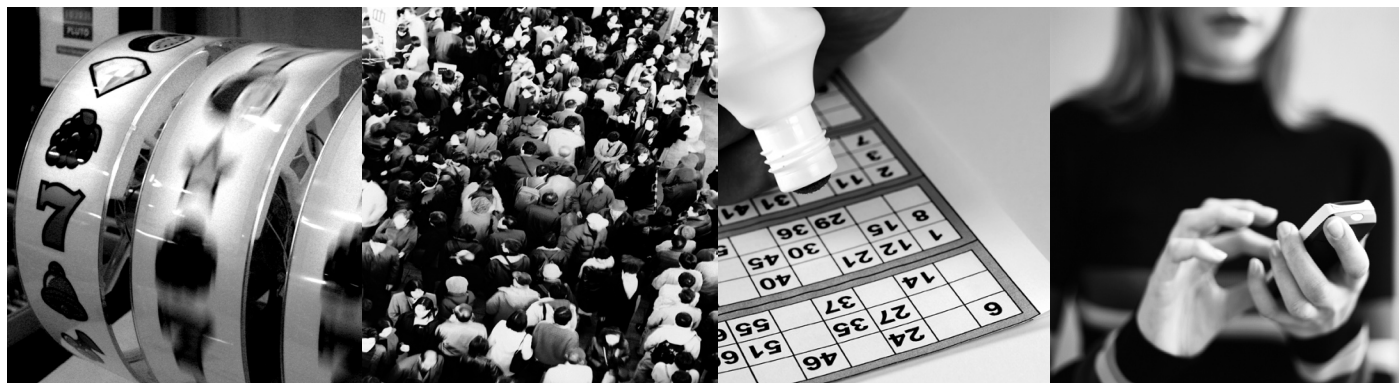
Appendix B

Data collection methodology

- All licensing authorities in England, Scotland and Wales were asked to submit a return.
- Authorities were initially given three months to submit their completed questionnaire, though late returns were also accepted.
- The questionnaire was structured in two parts: the first part requested information on the number of permits issued during the 12 months prior to, and in force as at, the 31 March 2010; the other asked for detail of regulatory activity during the same period.
- The questionnaire was supported by guidance.
- Possible errors were followed up with the appropriate licensing authority and subsequent amendments were made where applicable.
- The quality of the data varied from question to question and there were some inconsistencies between licensing authority returns. A number of errors were flagged during further quality checks and each licensing authority was contacted where necessary to rectify these.
- Licensed premises data, which is also used in figures two and three to contrast with visits made by licensing authorities, is also provided by the appropriate licensing authority. This process falls outside of the licensing authority returns process and reflects the ongoing responsibility of licensing authorities to notify the Commission of gambling premises applications and approvals.
- All efforts have been made to ensure the quality of the information contained within this statistical release. The Commission is committed to working with licensing authorities to increase the efficiency of the data collection process and explore methods to increase the value of this work to stakeholders.

Glossary

Alcohol licensed premises (automatic machine entitlement)	Pubs and other alcohol licensed premises are automatically entitled to two category C or D gaming machines upon notification to the licensing authority of their intention to make gaming machines available for use.
Alcohol licensed premises (gaming machine permit)	Licensing authorities can issue gaming machine permits which allow additional category C and D gaming machines to be provided. Where a gaming machine permit authorises the making available of a specified number of gaming machines in particular premises, this will effectively replace, and not be in addition to, any automatic entitlement to two machines.
Club gaming permit	Club gaming permits allow the provision of no more than three gaming machines in total. Each of the three machines must be from categories B3A, B4, C or D but only one B3A machine can be sited, by agreement, as part of this entitlement. Club gaming permits also allow equal-chance gaming (for example, poker) and games of chance (for example, pontoon, chemin-de-fer) under certain restrictions.
Club machine permit	Club machine permits allow the holder to have no more than three gaming machines in total. Members' clubs and miners' welfare institutes may site up to three machines from categories B3A, B4, C or D but only one B3A machine can be sited, by agreement, as part of this entitlement. Commercial clubs may site up to three machines from categories B4, C or D (not B3A machines).
FEC gaming machine permit	Family entertainment centres (FECs) are most commonly located at seaside resorts, in airports, and at motorway service centres. FECs cater for families, including unaccompanied children and young people. Unlicensed FECs are able to offer category D machines if they obtain a gaming machine permit from their local licensing authority. Any number of category D machines can be made available with such a permit (subject to non-gambling considerations, such as fire regulations and health and safety).
Occasional use notice (OUN)	This notice permits betting operators, licensed by the Gambling Commission, to use tracks for short periods of betting at events which are temporary or infrequent. The notices can only be used for eight days or less in a calendar year.
Prize gaming permit (travelling fair or unlicensed FEC)	Prize gaming is gaming where the nature and size of the prize available is not determined by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the number of people playing ■ the amount paid for, or raised by the gaming. Prize gaming permits can be issued by licensing authorities, to those who would like to run prize gaming from a premises they occupy, or plan to occupy, if the premises does not already have an existing premises licence or a club gaming permit.
Temporary use notice (TUN)	This notice permits the holder of a non-remote casino operating licence, licensed by the Gambling Commission, to offer gambling activities at a temporary venue for a limited period of time.
Test purchase	Test purchase exercises, or mystery shopper exercises, use under-age volunteers (with parental consent) as permitted under section 64 of the Gambling Act 2005 to assess whether effective controls are in place to prevent under-age gambling.



keeping gambling fair and safe for all

For further information or to register your interest in the Commission please visit our website at:
www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

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