

GAMBLING COMMISSION

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Letter to racecourse managers

Corporate hospitality boxes at racecourses

As you will be aware there has been considerable industry interest in the subject of corporate hospitality boxes at racecourses. The Commission is therefore writing to all racecourses to make clear our understanding of this matter.

As regards such boxes, whether racecourses are in breach of the Act seems to us to be a matter of fact and degree. Racecourses by their very nature provide facilities for viewing racing usually with screens to view live action and of course are permitted to allow bookmakers to offer betting without the need for any additional premises licence. Individuals at tracks, whether or not in a box, can use mobile phones or laptops to access remote betting sites licensed here or overseas.

It follows, in our view, that racecourses can provide telephones, pc and wi fi facilities, as can any internet café, for general use. Racecourses should be careful not to set up arrangements that amount to the track, or people who hire a box at the track, providing facilities for gambling. This would require an operating licence in addition to any premises licence which they may already hold.

We would have a concern should either a racecourse, or those hiring a box, advertise such a facility in a way which may be seen to be offering facilities for gambling.

I should also mention for the purposes of clarity that we see this as distinct from the question of whether there are unlicensed layers using betting exchanges to act in the course of business.

Yours sincerely



Mike Williams
Head of Enforcement and Regional Compliance