

Response

I write further to your request for information below. Unfortunately, due to the way the information is structured we are unable to provide the information you have requested.

The Gambling Commission issues licences to operators so that they may offer facilities for gambling. Where gambling is to be offered in a specific location (bookmakers, casinos etc) they are required to apply to the relevant Licensing Authority who are responsible for this aspect (an operating licence must be held before a premises licence can be granted). We do receive notifications when premises licences are applied for, granted or varied but we can offer no assurance as to the accuracy or completeness of this data which we are reliant on Licensing Authorities to provide.

We can provide the number of operators licensed for non-remote general betting standard in the years requested:

Betting operators 31/03/2012	Betting operators 31/03/2013	Betting operators 31/03/2014
458	406	350

And the number of betting shops by operator in these years (taken from our Industry Statistics):

Organisation	at 31 Mar 2011	at 31 Mar 2012	at 31 Mar 2013	at 31 Mar 2014	at 31 Mar 2015 ^[1]
William Hill	2,350	2,320	2,345	2,382	2,309
Ladbrokes	2,097	2,131	2,227	2,271	2,205
Gala Coral Group	1,712	1,725	1,745	1,812	1,838
Betfred	840	1,345	1,369	1,383	1,381
Tote	514				
Other operators	1,554	1,607	1,414	1,289	1,225
Total*	9,067	9,128	9,100	9,137	8,958

*The figures for 2011 through to 2012 are based on licensing authority notifications. The figures from column 'at 31 Mar 2013' onwards are taken from each operator's most recent regulatory return.

It may be possible to establish how many betting operators in these years also made applications for premises licences (and which did not) but this would require a manual review of the records held for each operator. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for public authorities, such as the Commission, is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. We estimate that it would take well in excess of 2.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract this information.

I hope you find this information useful.

^[1] Most recent return submitted on before this date.

Review of the decision

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your Freedom of Information request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to FOI Team, Gambling Commission, 4th floor, Victoria Square House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B2 4BP.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Gambling Commission. The ICO can be contacted at: The Information Commissioners' Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Request

Having looked through the GC website and read previous FOI requests I cannot find the information I require. Can you please answer the following question please?

How many non remote operating licences have been issued where the bookmaker has also applied for a premises licence? Can I have the figures please for 2014, 2013 and 2012?