

Response

Thank you for your request for information below.

Prevalence Survey 2007

In relation to the first draft of this report, I can confirm that we hold comments made by Commission staff and a response from NatCen. We also hold two reports from individuals who completed a peer review of the draft (the Peer review was conducted by NatCen although we do hold copies).

Please find attached the Commission's comments on the first draft which were provided to NatCen (and their responses, in red).

In terms of the peer review documents, the Commission's qualified person is of the opinion that prejudice would be likely to occur through the disclosure of this information. Having considered the public interest test, the Commission is of the view that this information is exempt from disclosure.

Anonymous peer review is the widely accepted norm and an important method for the assessment of academic work; peer review provides a valuable contribution to ensuring high quality research. There is an underlying expectation of anonymity in respect of peer reviews which, if we were unable to meet, could prevent peers from providing honest and impartial advice and comments. This would in turn impact on the quality of such research, to the detriment of the public interest. This is explained in the attached document.

Prevalence Survey 2010

In relation to the first draft of this report, I can confirm that all we hold that is relevant to your request are peer reviews. As with the 2007 reviews, we are of the view that these are exempt from disclosure.

The 2010 Survey was classified as an Official Statistic (as defined by the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007). As such, access to the first draft was strictly controlled and was not widely circulated internally at the Gambling Commission. The individuals who were responsible for the survey have since left the Commission. We do not hold copies of any email discussion they may have had regarding the first draft as we only retain individuals mailboxes for a short period of time once they have left the organisation.

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 Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Request

I specifically require information of any type of communication whether that is by letter, email, text, voicemail, telephone, attendance notes, social media or any other forms of communications which mention the first draft of the British Gambling Prevalence Survey of both 2007 and 2010.