

Response

Due to the nature of your enquiry this has been processed as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

When we license an operator we look at suitability, including their financial circumstances, but we do not oversee their businesses on a day to day basis or monitor the financial health of operators directly in real time. That would impose significant regulatory costs and could give a false sense of security to customers.

Our policy statement on licensing, compliance and enforcement outlines the considerations made when licensing new operators:

<http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/PDF/Licensing-compliance-and-enforcement-policy-statement.pdf>

Details of the financial position of the operator at the stage they applied for a licence would not provide an accurate picture of their financial position when trading ceased nor would it aid unpaid customers to access money that has been lost.

The financial information submitted through licence applications is commercially sensitive and disclosure would be likely to prejudice the Commission's licensing functions by discouraging operators from providing this type of information on the basis that it may be publically disclosed. We therefore consider this exempt under sections 41 and 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). This is explained in the attached document.

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

What was the amount of Capital that satisfied you that Blue Riband had sufficient funds to operate this business, and ensure that it was sufficient to get the company through to profitability..?

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