

## Response/Request

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please find the answers to your questions below.

### 1) Licences revoked

Our records show that the following machine operators have had their licences revoked following regulatory action:

- Venue Gaming Ltd - held a gaming machine general (AGC) which was revoked on 05/03/2014
- Nicky Shorrocks & Andrew Uppington - held both a gaming machine general (AGC) licence and a gaming machine technical (supplier) licence, which were revoked on 01/12/2010

Please note however that our operating licence archive only goes back as far as 2008, following the Gambling Act coming into force in September 2007.

### 2) Failure to submit annual returns

Unfortunately this is not something that we can easily report on from our systems. The return process is quite complex as it depends on what categories of licence are held (so an operator may need to fill out different returns for different parts of their business) and the return dates depend on when licences were granted. This means they are spread throughout the year. For these reasons, returns are dealt with at an individual account level by licensing staff. It would be possible to compile this data but would be complex and amount to the creation of new data. The FOIA does not require a public authority to create new data so this part will not be processed further.

### 3) Non-payment of RET contributions

I can confirm that from 01/04/2015 – 30/04/2016 six licensed gambling machine operators failed to contribute to Research Education and Treatment as required. There is no exemption from this requirement.

### 4) Change to licence conditions

The change to licence conditions went through a consultation period, detail of which can be found on the Commission website:

<http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news-action-and-statistics/Consultations/Closed-consultations-with-response/Strengthening-social-responsibility.aspx>

### 5) Freemasons / other brotherhood organisations

We do not collect information on whether staff are members of the Freemasons or similar organisations.

## **6) Staff serving as police or enforcement officers**

Given the nature of the work conducted by the commission (regulatory, compliance, enforcement etc.) there are members of staff who were part of the UK police force. However, this information is not something which we store centrally and would require a manual search of each of our employee files.

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 in excess of 2.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract any relevant information in reference to your request as there are over active 300 employee files which may contain relevant information and would need to be checked. If you are able to narrow your request, in terms of we should be able to provide some data by working up to the time limit.

### **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.