

# GAMBLING COMMISSION

January 2018

Dear police licensing officers

## Statement of Gambling Policy 2019-2022

We thought it would be helpful to let you know that each licensing authority's Statement of Gambling Policy (the Statement) is due to be reviewed by them early in 2018 and then republished in January 2019. We would encourage you to make early contact with your local licensing authority and get involved in the process.

The Statement is one means by which a licensing authority can make clear its expectations of gambling operators and pubs and clubs who site gaming machines, so they can proactively mitigate risks to the licensing objectives. As a reminder, the purpose of the Statement is:

- to reflect local gambling concerns and circumstances
- set out the Council's wider strategic objectives
- provide a point of reference for gambling activity.

The Gambling Act specifies a list of responsible authorities who the licensing authority must consult when reviewing the Statement (s157). This includes the police, who can help inform the strategic picture as well as the Local Area Profile. Many licensing authorities already have close working partnerships with their local licensing police. For example some police forces have identified hotspot crime areas which enables the LA to set out additional expectations on operators in those areas via the Statement. Others have established Betwatch schemes or joint inspection operations. We hope the forthcoming Statement consultations will provide an opportunity for further partnership working between yourselves and local licensing teams.

The Commission is, as always, willing to provide support and guidance to licensing authorities and the police in fulfilling their duties under the Act and in upholding the licensing objectives. The licensing authorities section of the Commission website provides toolkits on the topics mentioned above as well as examples of how other authorities have approached their Statement. We also have a number of [quick guides specifically for the police](#) including one explaining police powers under the Act and one on gambling and money laundering.

Should you have any queries in relation to this topic and/or the contents of this letter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

**Helen Venn**  
Programme Director, Compliance



Victoria Square House  
Victoria Square  
Birmingham B2 4BP

T+44 121 230 6666  
F+44 121 230 6720  
[www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk)