

# GAMBLING COMMISSION

GCM(16)09

## Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Victoria Square House, Birmingham (Boardroom)

27 October 2016

### Attendees:

John Baillie  
Stephen Cohen  
Robin Dahlberg  
Sarah Harrison  
Alison Hastings (via telephone for items 1& 2)  
Walter Merricks  
Bill Moyes (Chair)  
Sarika Patel  
Trevor Pearce  
Simone Pennie  
Jonathan Scott  
Catharine Seddon

### In attendance:

Eve Brown (item 5)  
Sarah Gardner  
Ben Haden  
Sue Harley  
Chris Harper (for item 2)  
Paul Hope (for items 7)  
Simon Knee (for item 4)  
Neil McArthur  
Tim Miller  
Helen Rhodes (for items 3 -10)  
Helen Venn (for item 6)  
Mark Wagstaff  
Richard Watson (for item 6)

**[staff names of those other than the leadership team have been redacted]**

### Apologies:

Nick Tofiluk

### **Item 1: Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest**

1. Nick Tofiluk sent his apologies.
2. Jonathan Scott declared his appointment to the Competition and Market Authority Board.

### **Item 2: National Lottery Enforcement matter – Operation Tungsten: GCP(16)61**

3. **[Exempt information under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000]**

### **Item 3: Minutes and actions**

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2016 were approved.
5. The rolling actions were reviewed and updated.

### **Item 4: Report from the Chief Executive - Board Performance Pack: GCP(16)62-2**

6. The Chief Executive presented the Board performance pack, which included:
  - the latest iteration of the balanced scorecard
  - planned events
  - casework update
  - communications report
  - e-communications report
  - financial report
  - update on Horserace Betting Levy Board reform.
7. The Chief Executive provided updates on:
  - people and performance
  - external updates
  - compliance
  - communications.
8. The Board noted that the staff survey had been launched and the deadline for responses was the end of October. The Board suggested to Officials that it would be helpful if the balanced scorecard indicated whether the item had improved or not from the previous month, to get a view on trends over time.
9. The Board discussed the Finance Report, in particular the level of bad debt provision and the pension liability. The Board noted that the bad debt provision had been reduced as the outstanding fees had now been paid. The Board also noted that the pension liability should not be a risk as the main pension liability sits with the Civil Service Pension Scheme.
10. **[Exempt information under section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000]**
11. The Board noted that they would be provided with further updates and milestones in the New Year and that DCMS were hoping to implement by April 2017.
12. The Board noted the Performance Pack and CEO Highlight Report.

#### **Item 5: Omand Risk review: GCP(16)65**

13. The Board reviewed the risk management framework and risk appetite matrix. The Board noted that the framework had been updated to include Audit Committee deep dives which would be four times a year on key risks. The Board asked that Officials consider further work in analysing risks against the risk appetite.
14. **[Exempt information under section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000]**
15. **[Exempt information under section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000]**

#### **Item 6: Compliance and enforcement update:**

##### **Update on the pilot annual assurance statement (AAS) project: GCP(16)66**

16. The Programme Director – Compliance introduced the item which provided an update on the pilot annual assurance statement project.
17. The Board were invited to discuss the topics in the paper and provide a steer on the proposed development of the AAS and the proposed timetable.
18. **[Exempt information under section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000]**
19. The Board noted the next steps for the pilot and that a further update would be provided at the meeting in February.
20. The Board noted the update.

##### **The Commission's Enforcement Strategy under the Gambling Act 2005 (Update): GCP(16)67**

21. The Programme Director – Enforcement and Intelligence introduced the paper which provided an update on the Commission's review of its use of enforcement.
22. The Board were asked to provide a steer on a number of areas which had been carried over from the discussions at the meeting in March.
23. The Board discussed the review and the outstanding issues. The Board endorsed the proposed amendments to the *Statement of Principles for licensing and regulation* and agreed that they reflected our aim to increase the focus on consumers. The Board also agreed that settlements should be used when they are suitable and licence reviews commenced whenever that is appropriate.
24. The Board also endorsed the proposed amendments to the *Statement of principles for financial penalties*.
25. The Board discussed the level of detail published on cases where the Commission has used its regulatory powers and agreed that fuller details should be published as well as lessons learned. The Board also agreed that the Commission should publish an annual enforcement report.
26. The Board noted that further work was planned to consider the National Lottery enforcement framework.

**Item 7: Gambling review intended outcomes: GCP(16)68**

27. The Programme Director introduced the paper which is part of a series of papers, coming to the Board over the next few months, forming part of the Commission's preparations for a government's current gambling review.
28. The Board were asked to agree or amend the intended outcomes identified. The Board were also asked to note the issues and the work in progress to address those issues, highlighting any concerns or suggestions.
29. The Board discussed the Gambling review and the outcomes the Commission were seeking. The Board noted that the review had now been launched.
30. The Board endorsed the intended outcomes that the Commission were seeking and noted the issues and work in progress.

**Item 8: Responses to the Commission / DCMS joint consultation on licence fees: GCP(16)70**

31. The Senior Manager – Finance introduced the paper provided an update on the Commission's joint consultation with DCMS on proposals for changes to operating licence fees which concluded on 9 September, in advance of the new fee levels coming into effect in April 2017.
32. The Board noted the update.

**Item 9: Quarterly Research Briefing 02/16 (October 2016): GCP(16)69**

33. The Board noted the report.

**Item 10: AOB**

34. There was no other business.