

GAMBLING COMMISSION

GCM(14)01

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Victoria Square House, Birmingham (Boardroom)

23 January 2014

Attendees: Mary Chapman
Robin Dahlberg
Robert Foster
Philip Graf (Chair)
Rachel Lampard
Anthony Lilley
Walter Merricks
Graham Sharp
Peter Teague
Jenny Williams

Apologies:

In attendance: Ian Bannon (for items 9)
Rebekah Eden (for items)
Sarah Gardner
Ben Haden (for items 1-4)
Mark Harris
Elaine King (Notes)
Neil McArthur
Julia Mackisack
Paul Morris (for item 6)
Jeanette Pugh
Nick Tofiluk

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

Item 1: Minutes and action points of the last meeting

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November were approved.
2. There were no matters arising.
3. The rolling actions were reviewed and updated.

Item 2: Oral report from the Remuneration Committee

4. The Chair of the Remuneration Committee advised the Commissioners that the Committee had not met as planned because the review of HR policies which had been

scheduled for the agenda has been delayed. As such, that discussion would be deferred until the March meeting.

Item 3: Oral report from the Audit Committee

5. The Chair of the Audit Committee provided an oral overview of the meeting which had taken place on 22 January 2014. A written report is to follow.

Item 4: Oral report from the National Lottery Committee

6. The Chair of the National Lottery Committee provided the Commissioners with an overview of the discussions from the December and January meetings.
7. The Chair of the Gambling Commission asked the Committee, in its advisory capacity, to provide the Board at a future meeting with an overview of key issues and any common themes or areas of concern.
8. Current National Lottery issues were noted.

Item 5: Report from the Chief Executive: GCP(14)01

9. The Chief Executive introduced the paper which summarised key workstream activities undertaken by the Commission since the last report.
10. The Commissioners were provided with a further oral summary update on:
 - FOBTs
 - The Gambling (Licensing and Advertising) Bill
 - Resourcing and recruitment
 - Current litigation issues
 - The Chairman's planned meetings with operators
 - February ICE Totally Gaming conferences
11. The General Counsel provided an update on current cases.

Item 6: Update on Gambling (Licensing and Advertising) Bill implementation and LCCP consultations: GCP(14)02

12. The Senior Manager (Sector and Thematic) introduced the paper which provided the Commissioners with an update on the timetable for the implementation of the Gambling (Licensing and Advertising) Bill and developments relating to the two consultations on Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice, which both closed on 4 December 2013.
13. The final responses document for the two consultations will be circulated to Commissioners via correspondence.
14. The latest indications are that Royal Assent for the Bill will be received in early March resulting in potential implementation in mid-June.
15. The broad provisional timetable for Bill and implementation sees the final LCCP document published at the end of February / or beginning of March, which would give three months notice before implementation. If the Bill receives Royal Assent by late March / early April the Commission may be in a position to issue licences to operators with the new LCCP provisions phased from June 2014.

16. The Board was asked to consider delegating decisions on the final drafting of the LCCP provisions and the responses document to the Remote Implementation Board / Senior Management team as appropriate. If there were substantive changes management would revert to the Board for approval.
17. The Commissioners discussed and agreed the recommendations.

Item 7: Review of Regulatory Policies and Processes: GCP(14)03

18. At its November meeting the Board reviewed a set of proposed amendments to key documents which form part of the Commission's Regulatory Framework. The General Counsel proposed consultation on changes to the following documents - Statement of Principles for Licensing and Regulation and the Licensing, Compliance and Enforcement Policy Statement.
19. The General Counsel advised that following further consideration, the Executive is not proposing to review the Statement of Principles for Determining Financial Penalties at present.
20. Key areas discussed and feedback provided included:
 - Significant changes have been undertaken to section 5 of the Licensing, compliance and enforcement under the Gambling Act 2005: policy statement
 - Clarification of the definition of 'economic growth'
 - The scope of the definition of vulnerable people
 - Further detail on the complaints process
21. The Commissioners agreed that, subject to minor drafting changes, they were content to receive the final version of the consultation documents (with track changes) for sign-off via correspondence.

Item 8: Sports betting integrity

22. The Director – Regulation provided the Commissioners with overview of current sports betting integrity issues.
23. The Commissioners noted the issues and asked for a more substantive Board discussion in March / April.

Item 9: Outcome performance measures – Quarterly report: GCP(14)04

24. The Commissioners reviewed and agreed the format of the baseline performance measures reporting at the October Board meeting. Since then the workstream team has refined the report to include additional management reporting criteria and amended the format.
25. The Commissioners reviewed the paper, noting the developments to the reporting mechanism which have taken place. Overall they were content with the progress and planned next steps.
26. Consideration is to be given to minor drafting changes to highlight priority workstreams.

Item 10: Financial report: GCP(14)05

27. The report was noted.

Item 11: Update from the November 2013 Omand session and corporate risk register: GCP(14)06

28. The recommendations and outputs from the November Omand Session have now been incorporated into the corporate risk register by the Executive. The revised corporate risk register, including the register covering National Lottery work, were discussed by the Audit Committee.

29. The updates to the corporate risk register were noted.

Item 12: AOB

30. The Commission has produced a gambling facts and figures leaflet.