

GAMBLING COMMISSION

GCM(15)01

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Victoria Square House, Birmingham (Boardroom)

22 January 2015

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: Christine Belai (for item 4)
Ben Haden
Mark Harris
Sue Harley
Matthew Hill
Elaine King (Notes)
Neil McArthur
Julia Mackisack
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 4 December were approved.
2. Matters arising from the minutes:
 - Greene King – the Commission has been granted permission to appeal the decision. The Appeal has been lodged with the Upper Tribunal. The Upper Tribunal is in the process of obtaining the papers from the Lower-tier Tribunal following which Greene King will have 28 days to respond. The General Counsel advised the Board that the Commission has not issued operating licences to Greene King in respect of the application and does not plan to do so pending the outcome of the appeal.
 - The Chair advised the Board that meetings with major bookmakers are being scheduled for early to mid-March.

Item 2: Report from the Audit Committee: GCP(15)01

3. At the December Board the Chair of the Audit Committee provided the Board with an oral update of the discussions which took place at the 4 December Audit Committee meeting. The written report summarised the key issues and discussions.
4. The Chair of the Audit Committee advised the Board that although the January meeting of the Audit Committee was cancelled, the reports were reviewed by correspondence. Internal Audit exercises are proceeding to plan with several reports scheduled for discussion in May.
5. The Board noted the report.

Item 3: Report from the National Lottery Committee:

6. The National Lottery Committee Chair and the Director National Lottery Programme provided the Board with a summary of the discussions which took place at the December and January Committee meetings
7. The Board was advised that in line with Corporate Governance arrangements a record of decisions taken at the NL Committee together with the most recent set of minutes will be forwarded to the Board via correspondence.
8. The Chair asked that the Board review the minutes and decisions of those meetings and if they have comments or substantive queries, time for discussion will be allocated on the next Board agenda. The Board was asked to table questions in advance of the meeting via the Director National Lottery Programme.
9. Decisions and minutes of future meetings would be reviewed six-monthly thereafter.

Digital Affiliates

10. The chair of the Committee noted that the Committee would be recommending to the Board to approve a licence investment proposal from Camelot UK Lotteries to enable a Digital Affiliate marketing programme.
11. The Board was advised that a paper outlining next steps and recommendations will be issued for approval by correspondence before 27 February.

Item 4: Nths promotions licensing application: GCP(15)03

12. At the October and December 2014 National Lottery Committee meetings, Camelot's proposal for a Lotto Nth promotion was considered. Following discussion of the key aspects of the proposal, the Committee agreed that the proposal should be put to the Commission Board for discussion.
13. The Head of National Lottery Licensing and Enforcement provided the Board with a summary of the key issues of the proposals and the funding mechanism as outlined by Camelot. The Board was asked to consider these key issues with reference to Operating Licence Conditions, lawfulness and policy.
14. The Board discussed the proposed promotion in relation to its strategic objective, potential benefits, funding mechanics and intended purpose of the approval sought. The merits of a trial basis for the one promotion were considered.

15. The Board also discussed the promotion alongside the related pending Project Mint proposal.
16. The Board agreed that they could not approve the current proposal at the present time. The Board also agreed that before making a final decision on this proposal it would welcome the opportunity to discuss specific common elements of both proposals, for the purposes of clarification and consistency. It noted it was important, if possible, to gain assurance on the Project Mint proposal first.

Item 5: Report from the Chief Executive: GCP(15)04

17. The Chief Executive introduced the report which summarised the key activities undertaken since the last report.
18. The Board was provided with an oral update on:
 - the Senet Group launch of TV advertising “WHEN THE FUN STOPS, STOP” and recent appointments to the Senet Group Board
 - ABB senior staff changes
 - the GBGA’s Judicial Review against HMRC
 - The Commons Select Committee Society Lottery Inquiry
 - Government advertising review
 - Current regulatory investigations
 - Money laundering
 - Guidance to Licensing Authority consultation.
19. Feedback on the draft of the ‘Annual Statement of Assurance Evidencing Performance Relating to the Licensing Objectives’ has been forwarded to colleagues. A supplementary assurance statement consultation is due to commence at the beginning of February.
20. The LCCP consultation response document is due to be published on 5 February.

Item 6: The Year Ahead – stocktake from programmes: GCP(15)05

21. The Director (BPPB and Programmes) advised the Board that each of the business plan programmes had been reviewed by Programme directors, Business Plan Programme Board and Executive Group to assess the challenges faced by the Commission over the forthcoming calendar year.
22. The brief summaries of the priorities and main deliverables are to feed into the business planning process. Programme directors are to cascade details to workstream colleagues to ensure that these are reflected in the relevant workstream and programme plans.
23. The Chair asked about reporting on data quality, which was not expressly covered in the schedules. It was noted that this formed part of the work on evidence led culture. The Chair commented that the evidence led culture paper was scheduled to be discussed at the February Board meeting, and that it would be helpful if this also provided the Commissioners with an update on data quality.
24. The Board is expecting the paper on the draft business plan at its February meeting, which will draw upon information contained in the Year Ahead paper. The Chair noted that, as for last year, the plan should include a small number of key priorities.

25. The Chair asked that the paper include an update which summarises the Commission's achievements (or not) against the current (2014/15) business plan. This could be included in the paper on the draft business plan as precursor/input to the plan for 2015/2016.

Item 7: Financial report: December 2014: GCP(15)06

26. The report provided the Board with an overview of the Commission's financial performance for the third quarter.
27. The Board noted the report.

Item 8: Remote implementation progress report: GCP(15)07

28. The paper provided the Board with a progress report on the Commission's implementation of the remote provisions of the Gambling (Licensing and Advertising) Act 2014.
29. The Board noted the progress on: remote applications; remote compliance activity and remote enforcement activity to date.

Item 9: AOB

30. There was no other business.