



DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE MEDIA AND SPORT

GAMBLING BILL: RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY SEMINAR



Running Order

The Gambling Bill – Jill McKenzie, DCMS

The Gambling Commission – Gerladine Meneaud-Lissenburg,
Gaming Board for Great Britain

---- Coffee ----

Licensing Authorities and Responsible Authorities –
Katherine Smith, LACORS

Questions and Answers, open discussion

---- Lunch ----



GAMBLING BILL: RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES SEMINAR

DCMS

Jill McKenzie

31 January 2004



Summary

- **The Bill**
- **Key features**
- **Local authorities and responsible authorities**



The Gambling Bill

- **Why do we need a Bill?**
 - To strengthen consumer protection
 - Current law (from 1960s) under strain
 - New technology evading regulation
- **Progress on the Bill**
 - Introduced 18 October 2004
 - Third Reading 24 January 2005
 - Hope for Royal Assent by mid-2005



Key features

- At its centre are three objectives:
 - Ensure that gambling remains crime-free
 - Ensure that gambling is conducted fairly
 - Protect children and the vulnerable



The Gambling Commission

- The new regulator for gambling:
 - Licence bingo, bookmakers, casinos, pools, certain lotteries, gaming machine manufacturers, remote gambling operators
 - Issue codes of practice and guidance
 - Issue operating and personal licences
 - Prosecute illegal gambling



Gambling Commission Licences

- **Operating licences:**
 - Main permission for commercial gambling
 - Can be individual, company or persons
 - Regulated through licence conditions
- **Personal licences:**
 - Management: perform certain functions
 - Operational: influence outcome of gaming



Local authorities

- Local authorities responsible for:
 - Licensing gambling premises
 - Permissions for low stake gaming machines
 - Registering certain society lotteries
- Local authorities will:
 - Publish a three-year licensing policy (guidance)
 - Consider applications and monitor compliance
 - Maintain a register of licensed premises
 - Decide on casino resolution



Local authority costs

- **Start-up costs:** Provision made through the Revenue Support Grant distributed by ODPM
- Money available for 2004/05 and 2005/06
- **Fees:** Avoid local burdens with fairness for the industry:
 - Secretary of State to set fee bands with prescribed maximum for premises licences
 - Secretary of State may devolve fees to high performing authorities (cost recovery)



Premises licensing applications

- Consider application (fee, operating licence held)
- Have regard for licensing objectives and guidance
- Take account of representations
- Decide on conditions
- Grant or refuse application
- Give reasons for decisions
- Any appeals to Magistrates



Responsible authorities

- Local authorities consult RAs on each application
- RAs able to make representations on applications
- Responsible authorities include:
 - Gambling Commission and HM Customs
 - Fire and police authorities
 - Planning authority
 - Environmental health
 - Social services (protection of children)



Looking forward

- Local Government representatives sit on three DCMS working groups: premises licensing, transition and industry liaison
- Gambling Commission set up after Royal Assent
- Transition to new regime then begins
- Local authorities unlikely to invite applications for premises licences before the end of 2006
- Gives time for Commission guidance and local premises licensing policies to be prepared



Issues for consideration

- What do responsible authorities need in order to undertake their responsibilities?
- What future communication with DCMS, LACORS, Gambling Commission or others?
- How fulfil training needs?



THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

Geraldine Meneaud-Lissenburg
Gaming Board for Great Britain



----- COFFEE -----



Discussion

Any questions for the presenters?

How can we help?

What now?