

JOELSON WILSON

GAMBLING LAW UPDATE

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- The Gambling Commission (“the Commission”) has announced the reversal of the requirement for casinos to submit monthly census forms, subject to a few exceptions. The information is primarily used to support Gaming Licensing Committees and Appeal Tribunals to deal with the issue of demand when determining applications under the Gaming Act 1968 (“the 1968 Act”). The Commission takes the view that there are so few outstanding applications under the 1968 Act, that the requirement to provide census returns from all casinos is disproportionate. A handful of casinos must still provide the information until the outstanding 1968 Act applications have concluded and will be notified as the requirement ceases. All other casinos can dispense with providing the information immediately. By contrast, all casino operators must continue to provide figures on drop, win and attendance for all casino premises each month. These figures remain necessary since they are used by the Commission in relation to compliance activity and advising the Government on gambling.
- The Gambling Commission has issued Supplement 6 to Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice. The supplement concerns casino gaming reserves and liberalises the current requirements by basing the reserve on the single highest staking table in a casino group only. The revision comes after calls from the casino industry to reduce the requirement. The Gambling Commission will continue to monitor the position with a view to further possible amendments to the calculation. Supplement 6 takes effect from 1st July 2009.
- The Gambling Commission has published a list of key characteristics for bingo machines in attempt to differentiate between gaming machines (which are subject to limits on numbers, stakes and prizes) and bingo machines (which are not subject to limits on numbers, stakes or prizes). The requirements in the publication are voluntary at the moment but the Gambling Commission states that it will formalise them if necessary. The document is available on www.gamblingcommission.com and also contains a section devoted to the characteristics of bingo machines in AGCs and FECs.
- The European Commission has issued an opinion pointing out flaws in the French draft legislation regulating online betting and gaming. The Commission’s criticisms include the fact that the legislation is too protectionist of France’s existing monopolies, Française des Jeux and PMU, that liberalisation of the gaming sector is limited to online gaming and that the opening up of the horse betting market is limited to pool betting. The effect of the opinion is that France cannot formally adopt the legislation until 8th July 2009 and, if France does not take into account the Commission’s objections, the Commission can launch infringement proceedings.

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Need to know more?

Ask us. “*Truly proactive practitioners, well versed in licensing law, greatly knowledgeable and utterly dependable in fighting its clients’ battles ...*” – *Chambers Guide to the UK Legal Profession 2008*. For information/advice on alcohol or entertainment licensing matters, gaming, betting, lotteries or remote gambling, please contact:

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This document is not intended to be a comprehensive review of all developments in the law or practice, or to cover all aspects of those referred to. Readers should take legal advice before applying the information contained in this publication to specific issues or transactions.

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