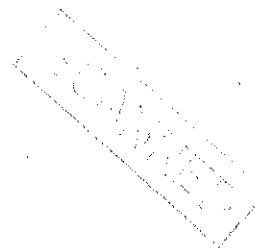
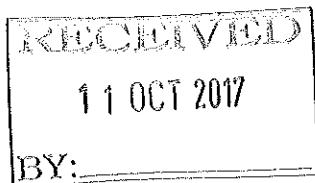


GAMBLING COMMISSION



Head of Public Protection/Regulatory Services
Shropshire Council
Shirehall
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SHREWSBURY
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9 October 2017

Dear Colleague

Statement of Gambling Policy 2019-2022¹

We thought it would be both helpful and timely to provide you with a reminder that each licensing authority's revised Statement of Gambling Policy (the Statement) is due to be reviewed soon and then republished in January 2019. In short, it is a legal requirement under s349 of the Gambling Act (2005) (the Act) for each licensing authority to prepare the Statement that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Act. The Statement must be reviewed every 3 years. This applies even if amendments have been made in the intervening period (during the 3 years).

You will be aware that there are three licensing objectives under the Act.

- Preventing gambling from being a source of, or associated with, crime and disorder
- Ensuring gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling

There are then 4 principles to inform a licensing authority as to how it carries out its duties:

- The codes of practice issued by the Commission. These apply to licensed gambling operators and also to pubs and clubs. Many relate to social responsibility concerns such as the protection of the young and vulnerable
- The Guidance to Licensing Authorities² issued by the Commission
- Is reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives
- In accordance with the licensing authority's Statement

The function of the Statement is to reflect **locally specific** gambling concerns and circumstances, to reflect the Council's wider strategic objectives and to provide a point of reference for gambling activity. The active and iterative use of the Statement can play an important role in setting expectations about how gambling will be regulated locally.

The Statement is one means by which a licensing authority can make clear its expectations of gambling operators who have premises in their area or others such as pubs and clubs who site gaming machines. This allows operators to respond to locally specific requirements and adjust their own policies and procedures as required. It also reduces the risk of matters being escalated to a

¹ Further details regarding the Statement are provided in our Guidance to Licensing Authorities Part 6

² <http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/for-licensing-authorities/GLA/Guidance-to-licensing-authorities.aspx>



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able to better understand the local environment and therefore *proactively* mitigate risks to the licensing objectives.

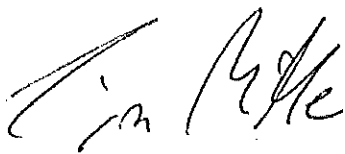
It is also a requirement of the Regulators' Code that regulators share information regarding their approach to compliance and risk, and this can be set out in the Statement.

The Act specifies a list of responsible authorities who the licensing authority must consult (s157). One of these concerns the protection of children from harm. It is for this reason that many authorities have specified their **Safeguarding Board** as a consultee. (Given that one of the licensing objectives concerns the protection of vulnerable people, Safeguarding Boards are well positioned to fulfil this function.)

Another body which, whilst not listed as a responsible authority, can also help to inform the strategic picture and approach as well as inform the local area profile, is **Public Health**. Again, a number of authorities have made significant advances in engaging in this way. (Given the range of co-morbidities associated with addictions it is likely that some of those presenting with one specific condition may be experiencing gambling related harm as well, for example those with a mental health issue or an addictive behaviour.)

The Commission is, as always, willing to provide support and guidance to licensing authorities in fulfilling their duties under the Act as well as in upholding the licensing objectives. The licensing authorities section of the Commission website provides toolkits on the topics mentioned above as well as examples of how other authorities have approached their Statement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Miller', written in a cursive style.

Tim Miller
Executive Director Corporate Affairs & Research
Gambling Commission