



department for
culture, media
and sport

Betting Premises

The Gambling Act 2005: Changes that affect your business.

May 2007

Information for betting shops on their new licence requirements under the Gambling Act 2005

Gambling law in Great Britain is changing. On 1 September 2007 the Gambling Act 2005 will come into force. All current legislation will no longer have effect. This means you will have to get new licences to continue operating. This leaflet provides information on what licences you will need under the new Act and how to obtain them.

What new licences do I need under the Gambling Act 05?

To operate a betting shop you will need to apply for the appropriate operating and personal licences from the Gambling Commission. You will also need to obtain the appropriate premises licence from your local licensing authority (the local council).

When do I have to apply?

If you currently operate a betting shop and wish to continue to operate on 1 September you must apply for new licences by the following dates.

27 April – deadline for **operating** licence applications to obtain continuation rights (see below if you have missed this deadline)

21 May – licensing authorities start accepting applications for premises licences

29 June – deadline for applications for **personal** licences to obtain continuation rights

30 July – deadline for applications for **premises** licences to obtain continuation rights

31 August – deadline for applications for premises licences to obtain grandfather rights

1 September – Gambling Act 05 in force, current legislation repealed.

Grandfather rights and continuation rights

If you apply by the dates above you will qualify for continuation rights and grandfather rights. These are important because:

Continuation rights – allow you to continue operating after 1 September 2007, even if your application under the new laws has not been determined.

Grandfather rights – guarantee that an operator of a betting shop under the existing legislation will be granted the equivalent premises licence under the 2005 Act (subject

to conditions). They only apply to premises licences.

How do I apply?

Application forms for operating and personal licences are available from the Gambling Commission (0121 230 6666).

Application forms for premises licences are available from your local licensing authority.

What happens if I missed the deadline for operating licence continuation rights?

If you applied for your **operating licence** after 27 April you will not be entitled to continuation rights for that licence (if you have not applied for an operating licence you should do so as soon as possible). However, you should still apply for a premises licence and any personal licences required by the deadlines above as you are still entitled to continuation rights for those licences. These will allow you to continue operating from 1 September if your operating licence *is* granted by that date, even if your personal and premises licence have not been issued. If your operating licence application *is not* granted by 1 September you will have to cease

operating, despite your continuation rights for your other licence applications. For further details please consult the Gambling Commission or your licensing authority.

Will I need to change the way I operate after 1 September?

The new Act contains different rules and conditions for the provision of gambling. Even if you have continuation and grandfather rights, you will have to abide by the new

laws, any operating licence conditions and codes of practice, personal licence requirements and the mandatory and default conditions for your premises type after 1 September.

Summary – for an operator with existing permissions under current legislation

To operate a betting shop after 1 September 2007 you will need:

- an operating licence – apply to Gambling Commission between 1 January and 27 April 2007
- any personal licences appropriate to your business – apply to the Gambling Commission between 1 January and 29 June 2007
- a premises licence – apply to your licensing authority between 21 May and 30 July 2007

Have you applied by the dates specified above?

Yes

Continuation rights will apply. You will continue to be able to operate after 1 September 2007 even if your application has not been resolved by that date.

No

Applications will still be processed, but if they remain outstanding on 1 September 2007, you will need to cease operating until they have been resolved.

Further Information

For information on operating and personal licences contact the Gambling Commission – www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk or 0121 230 6666

For further information on premises licences contact your licensing authority

For other information relating to the Gambling Act 2005 and the implementation of the Act contact the Department for Culture, Media and Sport – www.culture.gov.uk

improving
the quality
of life for all