

2021 North Devon Council Response to the Gambling Act Statement of Principles Consultation

Q Proposed amendment (Section 2): To add a disclaimer indicating that the document is based upon the Gambling Commission's Guidance (01 April 2021), subject to change in accordance with legislation.

Response given: No issues

Q Proposed amendment (Part A Section 3): Update numbers of currently licensed establishments and other statistics in the 'Geographical Area' section.

Response given: Agree, this is important.

Q Proposed amendment (Section 6): Update the section 'The Over-Riding Principle' in line with current Gambling Commission Guidance.

Response given: No issues, but councils should ensure that they carefully consider the Commission's Guidance and be prepared to challenge change or existing processes.

Q Proposed amendment (Section 15): Update the section 'General points regarding Gaming Machines' to specify that local risk assessments must be provided on a variation application.

Response given: Agree, this is important.

Q Proposed amendment (Part B - Premises Licenses) (NOTE: Figures 1 and 2 of Section 1.6). Re-word definition of 'premises' with inclusion of diagrams to provide information on buildings divided into more than one premises.

Response given: Agree, operators must ensure that any changes made to layouts take into account the provisions of the Social Responsibility Codes. This is often overlooked.

Q Proposed amendment (Section 5): To ensure that the external appearance of all premises, providing bingo facilities, are clearly identifiable by the customer.

Response given: Agree, but I've never witnessed any issues with bingo premises not clearly advertising that they are a bingo premises. However, if operators should ensure that if they have adjoining gambling licensed premises that customers are aware that the premises are separate.

Q Proposed amendment (Part C - Section 1): Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres (UFECs):

- a) Formatting error: To highlight that the expectations apply to both applicants and existing premises
- b) Encourage premises to sign up to the British Amusement Catering Trade Association (BACTA) Voluntary Code
- c) Add Expectations on Compliance Inspections (for which premises will already be aware of)

Response given: Agree with all of these. It is good practice for operators to be made aware of the format of Compliance Inspections to ensure that their policies, procedures and Risk assessments are in line with the LCCP.

Q Proposed amendment (Part C section 2): Automatic entitlement of two machines:

- a) Provision of three or more machines in alcohol licensed premises by way of a permit.
- b) Text to be added to highlight that we expect compliance with the Gambling Commission's Code of Practice for Machines in Pubs.
- c) Expectation surrounding compliance with the Gambling Commission's Code of Practice on Equal Chance Gaming in Clubs and Premises is echoed.
- d) Consultation with the Police and Gambling Commission is a new addition for three or more machines and the information expected to be provided.

Response given: Agreed.

If there is anything else you think should be added or amended please tell us about this:

Response given: Operators often complain that compliance assessments are inconsistent so it is vitally important that (a) operators are aware of and understand the format and purpose of Compliance assessments and (b) council officials follow the correct format for assessments previously advised to operators.