



To All Members

24th March 2020

Dear Member

Re: COVID – 19: Members' Update

I have tried to put a number of messages together in order to stop lots of different e – mails.

Information is being released from a variety of sources in a sporadic manner and sometimes with a slightly contradictory message. Business Rates Expanded Relief Discount is a great example. For the record I still believe Bingo clubs qualify and nothing has changed my mind.

If your LA disagrees then they are misinterpreting what is up to now vague guidance and confuses Bingo with Gambling Clubs. I recommend you push back if LA's tell you don't qualify. The note below only serves to strengthen my view.

(See latest guidance on Businesses and Premises to close). You will note on page 4 that Bingo is listed specifically under Assembly and Leisure which under 10b of the LA Guidance note on Expanded Business Rates are eligible and the last page which in my mind is even clearer.

I had a half hour conference call with Neil McArthur GC CEO yesterday afternoon. I think Neil realises that the GC could have been a bit quicker to appreciate the distress you are all under and the insensitive nature of some of their communications.

My advice to you is to reply in a cordial way to their enquiries which I know they have sent to you however make it clear that you are all too busy digesting and implementing your business continuity plans to be able to respond to anything more than the most basic of questions. Regulatory details on issues such as retention of customer funds etc are important but can surely wait for now.

I am now holding fortnightly conference calls with Neil so please let me know of any questions/queries or feedback I can share with him and I will let you know his response.

Finally following the welcome news that ECM gave regarding charges during the closedown period I can confirm that NRM have also their offered support to the Industry and we thank them for this contribution. NRM have taken the option to negotiate their contribution with individual customers rather than a public industry approach and therefore if you haven't had any contact with them you approach them individually.

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I am led to believe that SG Gaming have also taken a more individual approach.

Many thanks

Yours sincerely

Miles Baron
Chief Executive