

# GAMBLING COMMISSION

Bingo Association:  
Miles Baron  
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29 January 2021

Dear Miles

## **New consultation on gambling regulation funding**

I am writing to you today following the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) launching a consultation into the funding of the Gambling Commission.

The consultation, which will run until 25 March 2021, proposes an uplift to Gambling Commission fees based on proposals from the Gambling Commission to the Government. This is separate to the ongoing Gambling Act Review.

We welcome this DCMS consultation as it will explore much needed changes to our fee income to enable us to continue to regulate effectively. We would encourage everyone impacted by the proposals to have their say, including your members.

The Gambling Commission has been working with DCMS on fees for some time and this consultation follows the National Audit Office report last year that found that the way that gambling regulation is funded does not allow the Commission to change licence fees and makes it more difficult to invest in new skills to quickly address changing risks. Changes to fees are being proposed now by DCMS, under the existing framework, to ensure that the Commission is funded to respond to the immediate challenges we face regulating a dynamic and innovative industry, whilst the wider issues are raised in the [Gambling Act Review call for evidence](#).

We do however recognise that the non-remote sector has been impacted significantly by the nationwide restrictions introduced in response to the Covid-19 outbreak. As a result, we understand why DCMS have recommended that non-remote annual fees will not rise until April 2022, six months later than for remote annual fees, to take account of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is right however that DCMS have proposed increases for non-remote annual fees, as the Commission needs to ensure that its fee income from those sectors continues to reflect the costs associated with regulating them.

You can read the full consultation [here](#). We would encourage anyone who is interested – in particular operators and their trade bodies - to take part.

I hope you find this letter useful. Should you have any questions about this or any of our other work to make gambling safer, please do not hesitate to contact me. Neil would also be happy to discuss the consultation, what it will mean for our work and your views on its implications for your members at his next routine catch up with you.



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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Gardner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a trailing flourish.

Sarah Gardner  
**Deputy Chief Executive**