



**The Gambling Act 2005 – Draft revised Statement of Gambling Policy 2022 – 2025
Consultation - 12th July 2021 – 19th September 2021**

Introduction

The Gambling Act 2005 became effective in 2007 and H&F published its Statement of Gambling Policy in January of that year.

Under the Act, licensing authorities are required to review, amend and consult on their Statement of Gambling Policy at the end of every three-year period.

An amended version of the policy was published in January 2010, and again in 2013, 2016 and 2019. The Statement of Gambling Policy is now due to be reviewed, amended and consulted on again.

The current 2019 Statement of Gambling Policy has been revised and updated. You can find a copy of the Council's draft, revised Statement of Gambling Policy 2022 – 2025 for your consideration on this webpage: www.lbhf.gov.uk/business/licensing/licensing-policy.

The amended sections/words have been highlighted with tracked changes to make it easier for you to identify the changes.

The main changes reflect the latest version of the [Gambling Commission's Guidance](#) document and the [Commission's Codes of Practice](#). We have also simplified some of the wording to make it clearer, removed some specific references to extracts from the Guidance, updated dates, links to various websites and updated contact details.

To help you answer the consultation questions we have summarised the more significant changes in the attached document: Summary of changes made to the current 2019 Statement of Gambling Policy.

Your views are really important in helping to shape the policy so that not only is it compliant with the law and guidance, but also adequately reflects local circumstances and ensures that the Council continues to discharge its duty to exercise the Licensing Authority's functions under the Act.

The 10-week public consultation period for our gambling policy will run from the 12 July 2021 and will close at midnight on the 19 September 2021.

If you have any questions on this consultation, or require any more information, please contact us at licensing@lbhf.gov.uk.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this consultation.

Questions

Question 1: One of the three licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005 is preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime.

The Council's main role is to try and promote this objective with regard to actual premises. So, where an area has known high levels of organised crime the Council will carefully consider whether gambling premises are suitable to be located there and whether conditions may be required such as the provision of door supervision or reduced operating hours.

Do you feel the Policy does enough to promote this objective? **YES / NO / DON'T KNOW**

If no, what changes do you think we should consider?

Question 2: One of the three licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005 is ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way.

Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way is generally addressed by the Gambling Commission, via operating and personal licences. The Council will communicate any concerns to the Gambling Commission about misleading advertising or any absence of required game rules or other information.

Do you feel the Policy does enough to promote this objective? **YES / NO / DON'T KNOW**

If no, what changes do you think we should consider?

Question 3: One of the three licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005 is protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

This licensing objective means preventing children from taking part in gambling (as well as restriction of advertising so that gambling products are not aimed at or are particularly attractive to children). The Council will therefore consider whether specific measures are required at particular premises with regard to this licensing objective. Appropriate measures may include supervision of entrances/machines, segregation of areas etc. The Council will pay particular attention to any Codes of Practice which the Gambling Commission issues regarding this licensing objective.

Do you feel the Policy does enough to promote this objective? **YES / NO / DON'T KNOW**

If no, what changes do you think we should consider?

Question 4: Regarding the term 'vulnerable persons', the Council is not seeking to offer a definition. For our regulatory purposes, this group (*in addition to children*) includes: people who gamble more than they want to; people who gamble beyond their means; and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to a mental impairment, e.g. alcohol or drugs.

The Council will promote this objective by including information in our Policy about the various support organisations which are available to help problem gamblers and include a requirement for operators to provide information to their customers on how to gamble responsibly and how to access information about problem gambling.

Do you feel the information provided in the policy does enough to provide support for vulnerable people? **YES / NO / DON'T KNOW**

Question 5: Are there any other categories of persons who you feel the Council should mention in the Policy who fall under the category of vulnerable? **YES / NO / DON'T KNOW**

If yes, who else do you think we should consider?

Question 6: A proposal has been made to support the removal of the Council's long standing 'no casino' resolution from the policy. Whilst this may help to support a more vibrant night-time economy, it is felt that there are potential wider public health implications by inviting further gambling premises to the borough. Please see [Key information](#) about re-adopting a 'No Casino' resolution.

Do you think that the council should retain its 'no casino' resolution policy? **YES / NO / DON'T KNOW**

Question 7: A proposal has been made to include a policy terminal hour of 11pm for Adult Gaming Centres. Any premises wishing to operate after this time would be asked to provide a robust risk assessment and also commit to employing more than one member of staff after 11pm. This proposal has been suggested to try and combat an issue with crime linked to lone working in these type venues.

Do you think that it is a good idea to include this proposal in the revised policy? **YES / NO / DON'T KNOW**

Question 8: Some employees are exposed to high-risk situations daily e.g. crime, violence and mental health issues. Environmental Health Officers have investigated incidents which have occurred before 11pm where only one member of staff was on duty. In most cases, affected employees have suffered physical injuries and/or post-traumatic stress disorder, which has knock on effects.

It has been proposed that pro-active measures to address lone working, staffing issues and people within gambling premises could be strengthened in the policy, for all operational hours rather than restricted to after 11pm.

Do you think that this is a good idea? **YES / NO / DON'T KNOW**

Question 9: It has been proposed that we strengthen the underage aspects of the policy by including a section about the Council's expectations. This would include: that premises will adopt Challenge 25 when allowing customers to enter / gamble; that all staff will be trained in 'ASSESS-CHALLENGE-CHECK' and instructed to challenge young people as they enter the premises; and that door supervision may be required if the operator is found to breach this.

Do you think that this is a good idea? **YES / NO / DON'T KNOW**

Question 10: It has been proposed that a condition is added to the local pool of licence conditions about the use of technology to allow remote activation of gaming machines. Once a player reaches a machine, they can often play undetected as they have their backs to staff. If there was a requirement to activate the machine on demand, this would help to facilitate age-verification.

Do you think that it is a good idea to add a condition about this to the revised policy? **YES / NO / DON'T KNOW**

Question 11: Do you feel the revised draft Statement of Gambling Policy 2022 – 2025 is:

- a) Too restrictive
- b) About right
- c) Not restrictive enough

Question 12: Please add any other comments you wish to make regarding the summary of changes made to the current 2019 Statement of Gambling Policy or the Gambling Act.

When submitting any comments on the revised policy, please include reference to the paragraph numbers, where possible.

Please be aware that all responses are made publicly available. If you intend to include information of a commercially sensitive nature, please make sure this is clearly stated.

At the end of the consultation period, all responses will be carefully considered and collated as a 'Summary of Responses'. The proposed Statement of Gambling Policy 2022 – 2025 will then be prepared and presented with the summary of responses in a report to Full Council in October 2021, for final approval.