

Gambling Commission shows its teeth

Those overseas remote gambling operators who are now holding continuation licences should bear in mind that the Gambling Commission has been showing its teeth this year, with the revocation in April and September of remote operating licences held by Bodugi Limited and Bet Butler Limited respectively. In each case, the revocations arose following a review of the company's operating licence.

The Commission has the power to review both operating and personal licences, if it:

- has reason to suspect that a licence condition may have been breached
- believes the licence holder, or any person connected with the gambling activities, has been convicted of a relevant offence in Great Britain or abroad
- suspects the licence holder may be unsuitable to perform the licensed activities or
- thinks a review would be appropriate.

Most recently, in the case of Bet Butler, the reasons for the revocation were stated as follows:

- *The Licensee is unsuitable to carry out its licensed activities in a manner which is consistent with the licensing objectives,*
- *The Commission is not satisfied as to the competence of the Licensee,*
- *The Commission is not satisfied as to the financial circumstances of the Licensee,*
- *The Commission is of the view that one or more conditions of the licence has been breached.*

Whilst revocation is the ultimate option available to it, the Commission has a range of other powers which it may exercise following a review including:

- issuing a warning to a licence holder
- attaching an additional condition to a licence
- removing or amending a condition to a licence
- suspending a licence at the outset, or following a review
- imposing a financial penalty following breach of a licence condition.

The Gambling Commission's approach to enforcement is set out in its Licensing compliance and enforcement policy statement and its Statement of principles for licensing and regulation, each of which are available on the Commission's website <http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk>

In addition to assisting those seeking the grant of an operating or personal licence, we are able to assist existing licence-holders facing a review of their licence(s).

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