

# Important Gambling Updates

## **Gambling software**

The Gambling Commission has extended from 30 January to 31 March 2015 the time period within which the new operating licence condition 2.2.1 will come into effect. It will require Commission licensed operators to source their gambling software from Commission licensed gambling software businesses. The Commission says that *"this additional period will give time for software suppliers to apply for a licence as they are not covered by the transitional arrangements – but they should make preparations for their licence applications well in advance and by the end of this year. It will also give licensed operators time to adapt their own controls to ensure they meet the licence requirement"*.

## **Judicial review commenced by the Gibraltar Betting & Gaming Association**

We have written previous articles on the judicial review commenced by the GBGA against the Gambling Commission and the British Government, in which the GBGA contends that the new remote gambling point of consumption regime constitutes an illegitimate and disproportionate interference with the right to free movement of services under the EU Treaty – see most recently <http://cliftondavies.com/david-clifton-article-courting-attention-igaming-busines/> Mr Justice Hickinbottom has now given the GBGA permission to proceed with the JR and a full hearing has been scheduled for 23 & 24 September 2014. More news when we have it.

## **Launch of the Senet Group**

William Hill, Ladbrokes, Gala Coral and Paddy Power, the four major UK land-based bookmakers, have announced the formation of the Senet Group as an independent body, to be headed by an independent Standards Commissioner *"to hold the industry to account"*. Its aim is to promote responsible gambling standards and ensure that the marketing of gambling is socially responsible. Amongst the voluntary measures proposed by them to come into force on 1 October 2014 are an end to the advertising of sign-up offers (free bets and free money) on TV before the 9pm watershed, the withdrawal of all advertising of gaming machines (including FOBTs) from betting shop windows and a commitment that 20 per cent of window advertising will carry responsible gambling messages. With effect from 1 January 2015, the Senet Group will also fund a major new advertising campaign to educate people about responsible gambling and commit to all TV advertising carrying more prominent responsible gambling messages. We wait to see if this will halt the backlash against the perceived proliferation of betting offices and FOBTs in Britain's high streets. More information can be found at <http://senetgroup.org.uk>

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