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## **MODERN METHODS OF COMBATING GAMBLING BUSINESS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Health bodies, charities, regulators and businesses are being brought together to tackle problem gambling. The national strategy focuses on prevention, education and treatment and support for problem gamblers [1].

The Gambling Commission's strategy identifies high-level priority work over the next three years. It will ensure Gambling commission remains flexible enough to regulate an increasingly fast-changing gambling industry. It will also help to deliver a high quality and effective competition for the next National Lottery Licence while maintaining the current good performance of the existing Licence [2].

The overall assessment of the gambling commission is based on four levels related to: Gambler (Chapter One), Gambling venue (Chapter Two), Products available to customers (Chapter Three), Gambling Service Provider (Chapter Four).

This assessment also takes into account the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as it has implications for all four pillars [5].

As a gambling regulator, their responsibilities are to allow gambling, provided that it is sufficiently consistent with the licensing objectives:

- prevent gambling from being a source of crime or disorder
- ensure that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- protect children and vulnerable people from being harmed by gambling [3].

The Gambling Commission expects that licensed companies, those who manage them and have personal licenses, will be able to demonstrate by their actions and results that they:

- work with each other to reduce the risk of harm from gambling
- invest in technology to identify risks and effectively intervene to prevent crime and harm to consumers
- innovate and evaluate what helps make gambling products and services safer
- actively identify and properly manage risks and emerging risks [2].

The regulatory year will undoubtedly be dominated by the Review of the Gambling Act, the date for which has not been announced but which may well report in the form of a white paper before the end of 2021. The Review itself will be led by John Whittingdale MP OBE, an appointment that some have said will be likely to lead to a more favourable outcome for the gambling industry. Judging by the call for evidence, it seems likely that the following areas will be subject to scrutiny and recommendations for reform:

- a. stake limits on certain classes of gambling machines (and also possibly on on-line slot machines);
- b. potential reforms to block illegal lotteries currently masquerading as free prize draws, skill-based contests and reform in the area of loot boxes;
- c. changes to the approach adopted by the regulator (focusing on some of the criticisms of the Commission's approach over the last few years);
- d. some form of restrictions on advertising of gambling (most likely to be focused on the restriction of advertising in connection with sport); and
- e. improvements in the ability of customers to make complaint about gambling operators (possibly in the form of an ombudsman) [4].

After more than 10 years of ban, gambling was legalized in Ukraine in August 2020 within the overarching initiative to bring the industry out of shadow and increase public revenue. However, industry's tax rules have not been updated which still prevents many market players from the full-fledged launch of their activities in the country. The bill aims to address this issue and liberalize current regulations [8].

Gambling will be regulated by a separate state body accountable to the government.

Among his powers, in particular, is the establishment of "requirements for combating severe gambling addiction (addiction)".

At the same time, the project envisages the creation of an online gambling monitoring system, which will be administered by the tax authorities.

However, the current version of the Law contains a discrepancy related to the appointment procedure of Commission members, which could make practical application of the Law impossible until it is amended [6].

That is, in fact, we have already got a black hole. There is already an extensive network of gambling points in Ukraine, but the budget receives practically nothing from them [7].

In conclusion, we can say that in the UK, modern methods of combating gambling business are at a fairly high level. The Gambling Commission's strategy identifies high-level priority work over the next three years, meanwhile, this process has only just begun in Ukraine.

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