



department for  
culture, media  
and sport

# Factsheet 1

## Temporary extension of existing premises licences

### Gambling act 2005: changes that affect your business



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This fact sheet has specifically been prepared for the following businesses:

- Race tracks, greyhound and other stadiums with track betting licences
  - Bingo halls
  - Casinos
  - Arcades
  - Premises with prize gaming permits
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#### Introduction

The gambling laws in Great Britain are being updated and a new regime for the regulation of commercial gambling is being established. The new laws will come fully into force on 1 September 2007.

The DCMS is working closely with licensing authorities, the newly established Gambling Commission and industry to ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible for businesses and licensing authorities alike.

A number of interim measures will be in place during the transition period, and this fact sheet explains one such measure. A separate fact sheet will explain what you will need to do if you want to continue to operate after 1 September 2007.

#### Automatic extension of existing permissions

This measure refers to the following businesses with permissions under the existing gambling law:

- Race tracks, greyhound and other stadiums with track betting licences issued under the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963;
- casinos and bingo halls with licences issued under the Gaming Act 1968;
- arcades with permits issued under Section 34 of the 1968 Act in respect of amusement machine premises; and
- premises with prize gaming permits issued under section 16 of the Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976.



If your existing permission expires between 1 September 2006 and 30 August 2007, it will be renewed automatically until 31 August 2007, after which the new Act will take effect.

You will not need to apply for a renewal, and the automatic renewal will not attract a fee. There is no need to take any action if you wish to continue to operate during this period. However, you may if you wish write to the relevant authority to ask for a copy of your automatically renewed licence or permit.

In England and Wales, casinos, bingo halls and tracks should write to their local magistrates' court. Arcades and holders of prize gaming permits should write to their local authority. In Scotland, casinos and bingo halls should write to their licensing board, and holders of the other relevant permissions to their local authority.

Holders of track betting permits will still be required to pay their annual fee.

### Exceptions – Casinos and bingo halls only

If a casino or bingo operator wishes to vary a condition attached to their existing licence, you may do so by applying for renewal in the normal way. The automatic renewal will not apply, and the normal application process and fee will apply instead.

Please contact the clerk to the licensing justice (or licensing board in Scotland) or your local authority for more details, or refer to the Department for Culture Media and Sport's website ([www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk))

### Dates and Events

#### 1 September 2006 – 30 August 2007

Transitional period – existing permissions listed above that expire during this period will be renewed automatically until 31 August 2007

#### September 1st 2007

New licences and permits issued under the Gambling Act 2005 come into force. A separate fact sheet will provide details on how to apply for new licences and permits which will be valid after 1 September 2007

### Background

The Gambling Act 2005 replaces most of the existing laws about gambling in Great Britain and puts in place an improved, more comprehensive structure of gambling regulation. It modernises 40-year-old gambling laws, ready to face the challenges of today and the future. This includes a new structure of flexible protections for children and vulnerable adults and, in particular, brings the burgeoning Internet gaming sector within British regulation for the first time.

The Gambling Act has three objectives:

1. Keeping gambling crime free.
2. Making sure that gambling is fair and open; and
3. Protecting children and vulnerable adults.

### More details

For more details, please contact your local authority and refer to the websites of the Department for Culture Media and Sport and Gambling Commission (below).

