

Gambling Supervision Commission



Changes to Opening Hours/Days for Licensed Betting Offices

Consultation Responses

16th January 2017

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1. Introduction

On 13th December 2016, the Gambling Supervision Commission (GSC) published a consultation on two proposed changes to secondary legislation. The proposals are centred on the GSC making changes to the days and hours that Licensed betting Offices (LBOs) can be open to the public.

The consultation ended on 13th January 2017 and the GSC would like to thank all those who took the time to respond.

This document sets out the GSC's final position based on the responses received during the consultation period. For the purposes of the document and to ensure any contributions do not compromise requested anonymity, views and comments have been paraphrased, but express the same sentiment.

2. Consultation Summary

The consultation document sets out the Commission's changes to a number of regulations.

During the course of the consultation period, the Commission received 2 responses as set out below:

List of Respondents	Category
Tony Wild, MLC.	
Neil Whybrew	Machine supplier

3. Consultation Responses

Each of the consultation proposals is set out in the following paragraphs as follows:

- The consultation summary;
- The respondent's views; and
- The Commission's position.

3.1 Opening days

Consultation Summary

A Licensed Betting Office cannot be open on Good Friday and Christmas Day. The Gambling Supervision Commission has received representation from the Licensed Betting Office sector seeking amendments to regulations to revise the restriction so allowing for opening on Good Friday.

The Respondent's Views

The responses were positive and were agreeable to the GSC amending the regulations to allow for LBO's to be open to the public on Good Friday. It was agreed by one respondent that Good Friday is now recognised as being a part of the sporting calendar and that Sunday opening in general is seen as being a fact of life.

The Commission's Position

The GSC proposes to make a change to the law that will allow LBO's to open for business on Good Friday.

3.2 Opening Hours

Consultation Summary

The hours during which a Licensed Betting Office can be open are set out by Order. The Order specifies the opening hours for weekdays only and makes no mention of weekends. The Gambling Supervision Commission will regularise this position by specifying the opening hours during weekends.

The Respondent's Views

One respondent agreed with the proposal to regularise the opening hours of LBOs given the flexibility afforded to the e-gaming sector. Another respondent indicated that parity across the industry was beneficial adding that a level playing field would be fairer as long as sufficient responsible gambling controls were in place.

The Commission's Position

As proposed, the Commission will institute the necessary regulatory changes that will clearly define the opening and closing times that LBOs may be able to conduct business.