Gambling Act 2005 Transitional Arrangements

- 1) Applications to transfer existing permissions will be accepted from 1 January 2007, and will have to be submitted by 27 April 2007. Unlike the Licensing Act, there will not be a two-month deadline for processing applications.
- 2) From 1 September 2006, existing permissions that expire will generally be automatically renewed, in order that applicants can then made advance applications to either the Gambling Commission and/or the licensing authority in early 2007. Existing operators will be able to benefit from continuation rights to allow them to continue operating under their existing permission if their application is not determined by 31 August 2007, providing they have submitted an application by 27 April 2007.
- 3) The government's policy is that existing operators will be entitled to grandfather rights for the premises aspects of their existing permissions. The terms of the grandfathered permit or licence will be the terms set according to the 2005 Act, including licence conditions. Holders of existing club registrations under the Gaming Act 1968, permits for amusement machine premises, and prize gaming permits will also qualify for grandfather rights entitling them to the equivalent permissions under the 2005 Act.
- 4) Special grandfather rights will apply to pubs and other alcohol licensed premises with existing permits under section 34(5E) of the 1968 Act. Pubs will be entitled to a licensed premises gaming machine permit for the same number of gaming machines as authorised by its existing section 34 permit.
- 5) In order to qualify for grandfather rights, operators will need to have an existing permission immediately before 1 September 2007, or an outstanding application that is then granted under current legislation. Operators would not necessarily lose their grandfather rights by failing to make an advance application by 27 April 2007, but they would not be guaranteed continuation rights allowing continuous licensing after 1 September 2007 if their application is not determined by that date.
- 6) Applications for premises licences may not be processed until the relevant operating licences have been granted by the Gambling Commission.
- 7) From 1 July 2006, no new applications for section 34 permits for amusement with prize machines in fish and chip shops, private hire offices etc can be made. Existing permits will not be renewable on their expiry, in line with the government's policy to regulate the playing of these machines by children.
- 8) Local small society lotteries currently registered with the Council will be required to pay their annual renewal registration fee in the usual way in January 2007. Registrations will be automatically converted on 1 September 2007, at which point they will become subject to the new regime under the Gambling Act 2005 (which is not significantly different from the present).