

Gambling Policy Review Consultation Document September 2024

1. This consultation document provides an opportunity for you to contribute to the review of Carmarthenshire's gambling policy. We look forward to receiving your comments and ideas to ensure that we are able to maintain an effective licensing system for Carmarthenshire.

Introduction

2. The current policy, which was adopted by the Authority in March 2022, must be reviewed at least every three years to ensure that it reflects feedback from the local community that the statutory objectives are being met.
3. The review is the first opportunity that local residents, businesses, existing licence holders and their representatives have had to formally comment on the Policy since 2021. The consultation exercise begins on the **27th of September** and finishes on the **10th of November 2024**.
4. The Gambling Commission have suggested to Licensing Authorities that since the DCMS are currently undertaking a review of the Gambling Act, no significant amendments should be made to Gambling Policies as part of the current review. Instead, they have suggested that Licensing Authorities wait until the DCMS review is complete and then look to update their Gambling Policies accordingly.

Functions of Licensing Authorities

5. The Act gives licensing authorities a number of important regulatory functions in relation to gambling. Their main functions are to:
 - Licence premises for gambling activities;
 - Consider notices given for the temporary use of premises for gambling;
 - Grant permits for gaming and gaming machines in clubs and miners' welfare institutes;
 - Regulate gaming and gaming machines in alcohol licensed premises;
 - Grant permits to family entertainment centres for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines;
 - Grant permits for prize gaming;
 - Consider occasional use notices for betting at tracks; and
 - Register small societies' lotteries.

Premises licences

6. Premises licences will be granted by licensing authorities and may authorise the provision of facilities on:
 - Casino premises;
 - Bingo premises;
 - Betting premises, including tracks;
 - Adult gaming centres; and
 - Family entertainment centres.
7. Except in the case of tracks (where the occupier of the track who gets the premises licence may not be the person who actually offers the gambling) premises licences may only be issued to people with a relevant gambling operators licence: for example, to obtain a bingo premises licence, the applicant must hold a bingo operating licence. Premises licences are transferable to someone else holding a valid operating licence.
8. In exercising most of their functions under the Gambling Act 2005, licensing authorities must have regard to the licensing objectives as set out in Section 1 of the Act. The licensing objectives are:
 - **Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime;**
 - **Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way;**
 - **Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.**
9. The Gambling Commission will be responsible for granting operating and personal licences for commercial gambling operators and personnel working in the industry. It will also regulate certain lottery managers and promoters.
10. This consultation paper is aimed at local residents, businesses, existing licence holders and their representatives. Indeed the Council is anxious to receive the views of all interested parties.
11. The Council has identified people and organisations that may be interested in responding to this consultation. However, the Council would welcome the views of any interested parties and recipients should feel free to draw the attention of this paper to others who might be interested in responding to the consultation.
12. In order to comment in detail on the gambling policy, respondents may first wish to refer to the guidance issued under the Act to local authorities by the Gambling commission as well as the current Gambling Policy and the Gambling Act itself. These documents may be viewed on the Council's website at <http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/consultation-performance/>

Copies of these documents are also available from the Licensing Section.

Responding to the Consultation

13. Your views are important to the Council in reaching a fair and proportionate gambling policy. **Please could you ensure that we receive your views by the 10th of November 2024, although an earlier response would be appreciated.**
14. To assist respondents, we have created an online survey, which includes questions requesting feedback on particular matters. Participants are advised that supplementary information such as statistics and supporting statements can be uploaded as an attachment to the survey in Word or PDF form.

If you wish to receive a hardcopy of the questionnaire please contact Emyr Jones whose contact details are given below.

The response document can also be e-mailed to us at publicprotection@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

15. All consultation responses will be taken into account during the policy review process. Unfortunately it will not be possible to reply in detail to each consultation response.

16. Contact

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Or by e-mail to: publicprotection@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.

17. If you require any further information regarding the consultation document or the Gambling Act, please contact the licensing section on 01267 228717. This document is also available at <http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/consultation-performance/>

**If you would like this document
in large print, Braille or on audiotape,
please phone:
 01267 228717**