

LGA Conference

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Gambling Commission

Gambling during Covid-19

Covid-19 impact: Land-based

Data collected from operators representing 85% of the Licenced Betting Operators from June to October 2020:

Over The Counter (OTC) GGY

40%

March



30%

June

Machines GGY

48%

March



57%

June

Machines play

Indicators for spend per session and the proportion of sessions which last in excess of 1hr all **increased noticeably** since premises reopened:

- Spend per session **peaked in June at nearly £12**.
- Although it decreased slightly overtime (£10.77 in Oct), it has **remained above pre-pandemic levels**.
- **3.5%** of all machine session lasted more than an hour when premises initially opened in June.
- This has remained near **3%** (above March '20 level) for the entire duration that premises were open in 2020.

Covid-19 impact: Land-based

Data collected from operators representing 85% of the Licenced Betting Operators from June to October 2020:

- This indicates a potential for the increase in intensity of play and could be as a result of displacement of activity from OTC to machines with consumers possibly wanting to limit contact with other individuals.
- It could also indicate the return of some of the most engaged individuals, whilst others may have stayed away.



Operators need to be mindful about the potential of some consumers to be increasing their spend on some of the more intensive products.

Covid-19 impact: Remote

Overall gambling participation has **decreased** in the Covid period, but there have been some **shifts to online products** in the absence of land-based opportunities.

2.7%

of the population who said they had begun to play online (*where they hadn't done so before*).

A number of current gamblers shifted to the online channel:

2.0% of the population

Or new online products:

5.1% of all adults

Partnership working in local authorities

LA roles and best practice



Engagement of PH teams in relation to the Act and in particular protecting the young and vulnerable.



Co-ordinated efforts and resources in reducing gambling harm and ensuring there is an embedded public health approach.



Work beginning shortly on a project looking at social housing tenancy and gambling harm in Birmingham.



Plenty of great examples to follow to protect the citizens you represent.

Gambling Commission


update

LA reviewing policies



Statement of Principles

- We are looking to update Guidance to Licensing Authorities in the coming months.
- Will reflect updates to Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice.
- Is the text relating to Local Risk Assessments still up to date as to what you expect of operators?



Gambling Commission compliance staff

- Support through Licensing Authority bulletin, template inspection guides, e-learning modules, quick guides and staff.



Gambling Act Review

- Engagement and input from public health teams.



Fees

- Income and expenditure roughly balance or fees should be adjusted.
- Reviewed every year.

Questions?