

# Wokingham Borough Council Responses to the Statement of Gambling Principles Consultation

## Background

Wokingham Borough Council, along with all other licensing authorities, is required to prepare, adopt and publish a "Statement of Principles" (SoP) setting out the council's approach to applications under the [Gambling Act 2005](#) (hereafter known as The Act) and the information it expects applicants to provide.

The policy guides the administration of licensing under The Act and helps to ensure that an appropriate balance is drawn between the interests of those wishing to provide and take part in legal gambling, and those who might be adversely affected by such activities.

Under the Act the Council is required to review its policy at least every three years or when the Council believes the policy requires updating. [The Current Policy](#) is due to expire at the end of January 2022.

## The Consultation

The Consultation started on the 07 July 2021 and ran for a twelve week period until the 29 September 2021. A public notice was placed in the Wokingham Today newspaper and information was also placed on the Wokingham Borough Council and Public Protection Partnership websites.

Letters or email were also sent to:

- Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers
- Association of British Bookmakers
- Bingo Association
- Building Control
- British Amusement Catering Trade Association
- British Beer and Pub Association
- British Institute of Inn Keeping
- Environmental Health
- Gambling Commission
- Gamblers Anonymous
- GAMCARE
- Health and Safety Executive
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- HM Revenue and Customs Public Health
- Holders of existing gambling licences / permits
- National Association of Bookmakers
- Parish and Town Councils
- Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Thames Valley Police
- Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board
- Wokingham Safeguarding Adults Board
- Wokingham Borough Citizens Panel
- Wokingham Borough Council Planning
- Wokingham Borough Council Environmental Health

- Wokingham Safeguarding Children Board
- Elected Members

## Responses Received

The following responses were received:

Respondent	Comment
<p>Lorna Pearce Head of Adult Safeguarding, Care Governance and ASC Covid-19 Taskforce Wokingham Borough Council</p>	<p>1. Page 11 – <i>“When determining an application for a premises licence or review of a premises licence, regard will be had to the proximity of the premises to schools, vulnerable adult centres or residential areas where there may be a high concentration of families with children”</i>. I don’t think the phrase ‘vulnerable adult centres’ really means anything – may want to consider rewording along the lines of e.g., <b>“buildings which house services for vulnerable adults”</b>?</p> <p>2. Page 12 – <i>“Where children and other vulnerable people are allowed access to premises where gambling takes place, the licensing authority may take such steps as are lawful and necessary to either limit access generally or introduce measures to prevent under-age gambling”</i>. Would you wish to consider rewording to reflect; <b>“to prevent under-age gambling, or gambling by those people who lack mental capacity to make informed decisions in that respect”</b>?</p> <p>3. Page 13 – <i>“As regards the term “vulnerable persons”, it is noted that it is not defined in the Act and the Gambling Commission does not seek to offer a definition, but states that “it will for regulatory purposes assume that this group includes people who gamble more than they want to; people who gamble beyond their means; and people who may not be able to make informed or balanced decisions about gambling due to a mental impairment, alcohol or drugs.”</i> The licensing authority will consider this licensing objective on a case by case basis”. Would it be preferable to re-word this to bring it in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005,</p>

	e.g., “and people who may in accordance with the MCA 2005, lack mental capacity to make informed decisions about gambling”.
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### **What Happens Next**

The outcome of the consultation will be considered by the Licensing and Appeals Committee at their meeting on the [20 October 2021](#) meeting.

They will then be asked to make a recommendation to Full Council on the [18 November 2021](#) that the revised Statement of Gambling Principles be adopted

Once approved the revised policy will be published before the end of January 2022.