



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

Item 6(b)

30th October 2025

Baroness Twycross
Minister for Gambling and Heritage
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10 September 2025

Ms Susanne Millar
Chief Executive Officer, Glasgow City Council
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Your Ref: SM/DB/Nandy
Our Ref: MC2025/04550/GT

Dear Ms Millar,

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 April, to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP, regarding the gambling levy. It was really interesting to hear about the range of activity on tackling gambling harm within Glasgow. I am responding as the Minister for Gambling and Heritage and I sincerely apologise for the delay in replying to you.

The UK Government is committed to strengthening protections to ensure that people can continue to enjoy gambling, without the risks that can ensue from harmful gambling. We are committed to reviewing the best available evidence from a wide range of sources and working with all stakeholders in order to ensure there are robust protections in place to protect those at risk. With this in mind, the UK Government has introduced the statutory gambling levy to raise around £100 million each for research, prevention and the treatment of gambling-related harm. It is a priority that this increased investment is directed where it is needed most, and we are led by the evidence of what works.

The gambling levy will be applied across Great Britain and we remain committed to ensuring a fair allocation of funding across all 3 nations. We recognise that nation-specific approaches in response to particular circumstances might be needed alongside initiatives that apply across Great Britain to best tackle gambling-related harm. We have appointed expert bodies to lead on the research, prevention and treatment strands of the levy, and they will work closely with appropriate bodies in Scotland and Wales to finalise commissioning plans and spending arrangements as soon as possible. We will also ensure that there are robust governance arrangements in place to ensure funding is being spent appropriately, with the levy board acting as the main oversight mechanism for governance. Representatives of the Scottish Government have a seat on that board.

Regarding the powers of Scottish Licensing Boards, my understanding is that authorised persons are operating within local authorities in Scotland by virtue of their existing powers, as set out in the Gambling Commission's '[The Role of Authorised Persons - Scotland only](#)' advice note. For example, environmental health officers and licensing standards officers already exercising statutory functions relating to minimising harm to human health or prevention of pollution automatically gain the powers of an authorised person under the Gambling Act 2005. This means that they can inspect premises and enforce compliance. As set out in its '[Guidance to Licensing Authorities](#)', the Gambling Commission encourages local authorities to deploy suitably trained authorised persons under the Gambling Act 2005 to ensure that gambling is regulated effectively. The gambling white paper set out an intention to make technical changes to the act to ensure that certain powers apply to licensing officers in Scotland as they do in England and Wales, if parliamentary time allows. We are reviewing the details related to this proposal.

Apologies again for the delay. Please do get in touch with my Private Office if you have any further questions or points on this matter.

With best wishes,

Baroness Twycross
Minister for Gambling and Heritage

