Terms of reference: The Future of Gambling Regulation in the UK

Inquiry and Purpose:

The Gambling Reform APPG's inquiry will focus on the current gambling policy landscape and legislative framework in the UK. It will consider the efficacy of existing legislation – Including the 2005 Gambling Act and the proposals set out in the 2023 Gambling White Paper – for delivering effective regulation of the gambling industry and a reduction in the levels of gambling harm among the population.

The inquiry will conclude with a report setting out recommendations for the Government on how to ensure gambling policy and legislation in the UK can remain fit for the future and address the growing public health issue of gambling-related harm.

Aims:

- Analyse the current gambling policy and legislative landscape, considering whether this is sufficient for regulating the gambling industry and reducing harm in line with the Government's manifesto commitment

- Explore the potential of the 2023 Gambling White Paper proposals for delivering an effective regulatory environment and considering where proposals fail to deliver on harm reduction aims

- To set out recommendations for the Government on what needs to change regarding gambling regulation to effectively deliver harm reduction

- To raise the profile and public awareness of gambling-related harm and the centrality of effective policy and legislative frameworks for enabling harm reduction

Background:

This inquiry and call for evidence are set against the backdrop of growing concern for gambling harm as a public health issue and the need to reduce harms. Recent statistics from the Gambling Survey for Great Britain have revealed a worrying scale of gambling harm in the country – with 2.5% of respondents scoring 8+ on the Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI). Concerningly, figures have shown that an increasing number of young people are now experiencing gambling harms too, with 1.5% of young people scoring 4 or more on the DSM-IV-MR-J.

We are now two years post the publication of the previous Government's White Paper on Gambling Regulation: '*High Stakes: Gambling Reform for the Digital Age*'. While the intervening period has seen important changes to gambling policy – Including the introduction of a statutory levy on gambling operators to fund gambling harm treatment, prevention and research – there remains significant concern regarding the suitability of existing policies and frameworks to effectively regulate gambling and deliver much-needed reductions on levels of gambling harm. The APPG are keen to explore how the existing White Paper proposals – not yet delivered – should be advanced to facilitate an improved regulatory and harm-prevention landscape.

Building on the recent successful work of the Health and Social Care Select Committee, the APPG will also consider the need for regulation in areas not sufficiently addressed by the White Paper, including the critical area of gambling advertising – consideration of the regulation of which was observed by the Committee as a significant factor in allowing the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities to 'effectively develop a strategy to prevent gambling-related harms'.

<u>Scope and Formatting</u>:

The APPG's ongoing Inquiry on the Future of Gambling Regulation in the UK will be informed by a continued programme of parliamentary hearings, and a call for written evidence. The evidence from both these components will be collated by the APPG Secretariat and used to inform a written report with clear recommendations for Government on the future of gambling policy and legislation.

The Inquiry will seek to:

- Analyse the suitability of current gambling regulations, policies, and legislative frameworks in the UK

- Consider how current legislation and policy intersects with wider policy areas – including public health, criminal justice, the coronary system, financial services, local government, the economy and taxation

- Assess the status of the harm prevention proposals set out in the previous Government's White Paper, including the statutory levy and its implementation, the delivery of an ombudsman, staking limits, and affordability and financial risk checks

- Explore the suitability of the proposed liberalisation of land-based gambling regulations outlined in the 2023 Gambling White Paper

- Assess the need for policy and legislative reform in areas including gambling advertising, sponsorship, marketing, and new and emerging forms of gambling (e.g. crypto-casinos)

- Evaluate the efficacy of the existing regulatory landscape and the work of the Gambling Commission and other relevant bodies

Recognising the significant interest in this policy area, the APPG welcomes written evidence from all interested parties, including, but not limited to:

- Academics and researchers

- Campaigners

- Charities, community and grassroots organisations working to reduce harm, including those with expertise in providing culturally informed services

- Decision makers

- Devolved administrations

- Experts by experience, including those with direct lived experience of gambling harm and affected others

- Faith groups

- Financial service operators

- Gambling operators

- Local authority stakeholders

- Public health professionals

- Regulators

- Wider interested stakeholders

Word count: The APPG politely requests that submissions are kept to a maximum of 1000 words

<u>Responding to the call for evidence:</u>

The APPG welcomes evidence or submissions to the APPG via the Secretariat email - *grh-appguk@dgagroup.com* - to inform our thinking and recommendations specifically around:

- Whether the current regulatory framework is sufficient for regulating the evolving gambling landscape and reducing harm

- How could the legislative framework be adapted to best ensure effective regulation of the gambling industry long-term reduction of harm and futureproof against next and emerging technologies

- Whether current gambling policy and legislation adequately intersects with wider policy areas, such as public health, criminal justice, the coronary system, financial services, local government, the economy and taxation

- The suitability of current harm prevention measures, including staking limits, the statutory levy, and financial risk checks

- Optimal strategies for the implementation of the statutory levy on gambling operators and ensuring its long-term success

- How best to deliver on the proposal to deliver an ombudsman as set out in the 2023 Gambling White Paper

- Optimal strategies for ensuring the long-term success of the Statutory Levy and the delivery research, treatment and prevention work

- The suitability of proposed liberalisation of land-based gambling regulations outlined in the 2023 Gambling White Paper

- What further steps should be taken on the issue of gambling advertising, sponsorship and marketing

- How to ensure the effective regulation of new and emerging forms of gambling (inc. crypto-gambling, social casinos)

- The efficacy of current regulatory efforts by the Gambling Commission and other relevant bodies.

Please send submissions to the inquiry to grh-appguk@dgagroup.com. The deadline for submissions is 5:00 PM (BST) on Friday, 19th September 2025.

Please clearly state who the submission is from i.e. if you are submitting evidence in a personal capacity or sent on behalf of an organisation. If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation – please state the name of the organisation and provide a brief description of the organisation.

Please reference any data or research submitted in your evidence. For further information regarding the call for evidence, please contact grh-appguk@dgagroup.com.