



**STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES
2010 - 2013**

THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

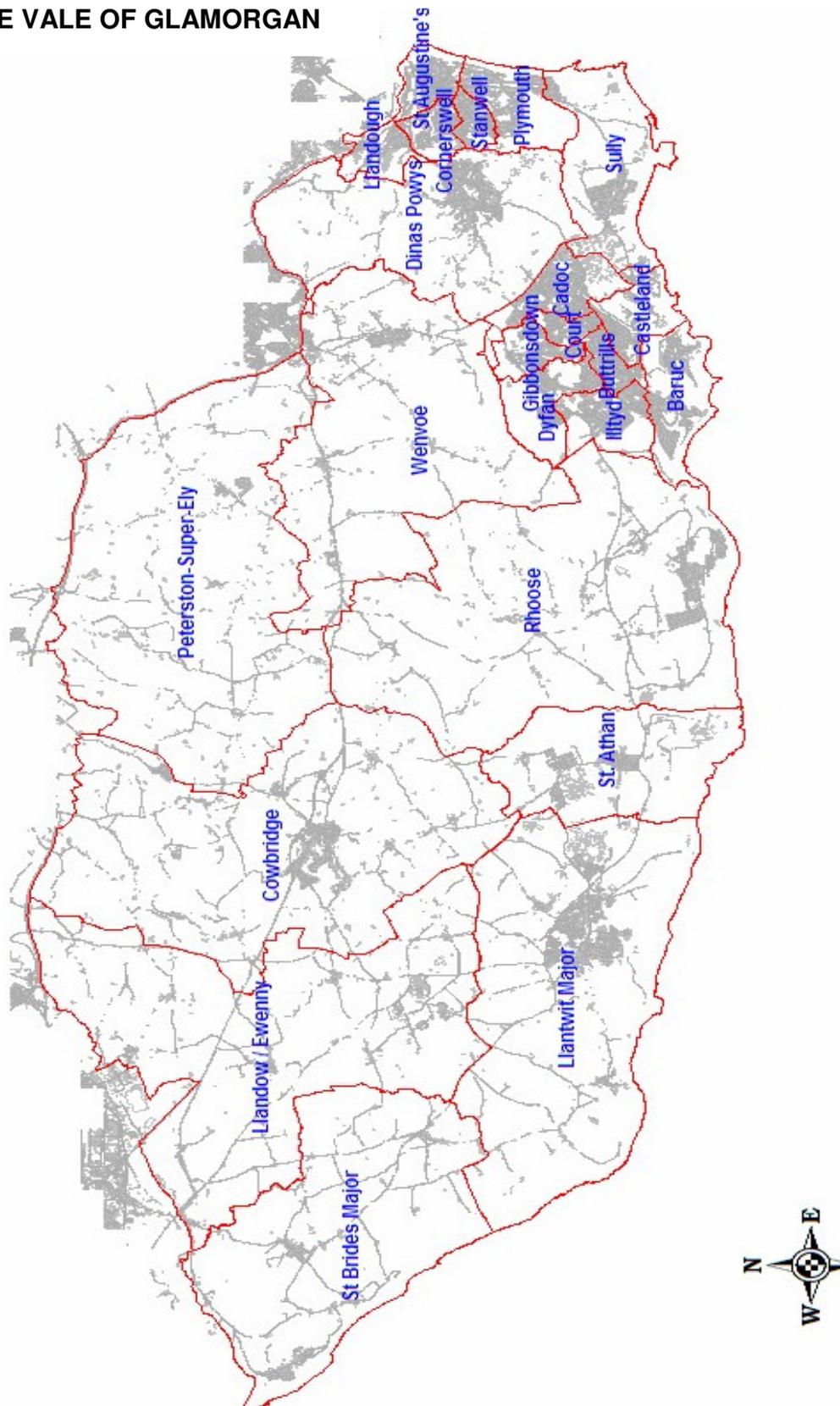
The Vale of Glamorgan Council

(To have effect from 31st January 2010)

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MAP OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN



PART A

1. The Licensing Objectives

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

This licensing authority is aware that, as per Section 153, in making decisions about premises licences and temporary use notices it should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it is:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued by the Gambling Commission
- Reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives and
- in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing policy

2. Introduction

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is Wales' most southern Unitary Authority. There are 4 Town Councils and 22 Community Councils in the area. It covers 33,097 hectares (331 square miles) with 53 kilometres of coastline. The Council area has a population of 124,017. The main settlements are Barry, Penarth, Llantwit Major, Dinas Powys, Cowbridge and Rhoose. Barry, the largest town with a population of 48,000, is the Vale's administrative centre, a seaside resort and port. Cardiff Airport is located 3 miles West of Barry. These areas are shown in the map at the front of this Statement.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council consulted with the following parties between 24th June 2009 and 16th September 2009.

- All currently licensed persons
- All responsible authorities
- Trade associations
- Gamcare

A full but not exhaustive list is available upon request.

It should be noted that this statement of licensing principles will not override the right of any person to make an application, make representations about an application, or apply for a review of a licence, as each will be considered on its own merits and according to the statutory requirements of the Gambling Act 2005.

3. Responsible Authorities

The Licensing Authority is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under Section 157(h) of the Act to designate, in writing, a body which is competent to advise the authority about the protection of children from harm. The principles are:

- the need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the licensing authority's area
- the need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected persons, rather than any particular vested interest group.

In accordance with the Gambling Commission's Guidance for local authorities, this Authority designates the Children and Family Services of the Vale of Glamorgan Council for this purpose. The contact details of all the Responsible Authorities under the Gambling Act 2005 are available via the Council's website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

4. Interested parties

Interested parties can make representations about licence applications, or apply for a review of an existing licence. These parties are defined in the Gambling Act 2005 as follows:

"For the purposes of this Part a person is an interested party in relation to an application for or in respect of a premises licence if, in the opinion of the licensing authority which issues the licence or to which the application is made, the person-

- a) lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities,
- b) has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities, or
- c) represents persons who satisfy paragraph (a) or (b)"

The licensing authority is required by regulations to state the principles it will apply in exercising its powers under the Gambling Act 2005 to determine whether a person is an interested party. The principles are:

Each case will be decided upon its merits. This authority will not apply a rigid rule to its decision making. It will consider the examples of considerations provided in the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities at 8.11 to 8.19. It will also consider the Gambling Commission's Guidance that "has business interests" should be given the widest possible interpretation and include partnerships, charities, faith groups and medical practices.

Interested parties can be persons who are democratically elected such as councillors, AMs and MP's. No specific evidence of being asked to represent an interested person will be required as long as the councillor / MP represent the ward likely to be affected. Likewise, parish councils likely to be affected will be considered to be interested parties.

Other than these however, this authority will generally require written evidence that a person/body (e.g. an advocate / relative) 'represents' someone who either lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities and/or has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities. A letter from one of these persons, requesting the representation is sufficient.

If individuals wish to approach councillors to ask them to represent their views then care should be taken that the councillors are not part of the Licensing Committee dealing with the licence application. If there are any doubts then please contact the licensing department Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

5. Exchange of Information

The principle that this licensing authority applies is that it will act in accordance with the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 in its exchange of information which includes the provision that the Data Protection Act 1998 will not be contravened. The licensing authority will also have regard to any Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission on this matter, as well as any relevant regulations issued by the Secretary of State under the powers provided in the Gambling Act 2005.

6. Enforcement

Licensing authorities are required by regulation under the Gambling Act 2005 to state the principles to be applied by the authority in exercising the functions under Part 15 of the Act with respect to the inspection of premises; and the powers under section 346 of the Act to institute criminal proceedings in respect of the offences specified.

This licensing authority's principles are that:

It will be guided by the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities and will endeavour to be:

- Proportionate: regulators should only intervene when necessary: remedies should be appropriate to the risk posed, and costs identified and minimised;
- Accountable: regulators must be able to justify decisions, and be subject to public scrutiny;
- Consistent: rules and standards must be joined up and implemented fairly;
- Transparent: regulators should be open, and keep regulations simple and user friendly; and
- Targeted: regulation should be focused on the problem, and minimise side effects.

As per the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities this licensing authority will endeavour to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes so far as possible.

This licensing authority has adopted and implemented a risk-based inspection programme, based on;

- The licensing objectives
- Relevant codes of practice
- Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, in particular at Part 36
- The principles set out in this statement of licensing policy

The main enforcement and compliance role for this licensing authority in terms of the Gambling Act 2005 is to ensure compliance with the premises licences and other permissions which it authorises. The Gambling Commission is the enforcement body for the operating and personal licences. It is also worth noting that concerns about manufacture, supply or repair of gaming machines are not dealt with by the licensing authority but should be notified to the Gambling Commission.

This licensing authority also keeps itself informed of developments as regards the work of the Better Regulation Executive in its consideration of the regulatory functions of local authorities.

7. Licensing authority functions

Licensing authorities are required under the Act to:

- Be responsible for the licensing of premises where gambling activities are to take place by issuing Premises Licences
- Issue Provisional Statements
- Regulate members' clubs and miners' welfare institutes who wish to undertake certain gaming activities via issuing Club Gaming Permits and/or Club Machine Permits
- Issue Club Machine Permits to Commercial Clubs
- Grant permits for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines at unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres
- Receive notifications from alcohol licensed premises (under the Licensing Act 2003) for the use of two or fewer gaming machines
- Issue Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits for premises licensed to sell/supply alcohol for consumption on the licensed premises, under the Licensing Act 2003, where there are more than two machines
- Register small society lotteries below prescribed thresholds
- Issue Prize Gaming Permits
- Receive and Endorse Temporary Use Notices
- Receive Occasional Use Notices
- Provide information to the Gambling Commission regarding details of licences issued (see section above on 'information exchange')
- Maintain registers of the permits and licences that are issued under these functions.

It should be noted that licensing authorities are not to be involved in licensing remote gambling at all, which is regulated by the Gambling Commission via operating licences.

PART B PREMISES LICENCES: CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

1. General Principles

Premises licences are subject to the requirements set-out in the Gambling Act 2005 and regulations, as well as specific mandatory and default conditions which are detailed in regulations issued by the Secretary of State. Licensing authorities are able to exclude default conditions and also attach others, where it is believed to be appropriate.

This licensing authority is aware that in making decisions about premises licences it should aim to permit the use of premises for gambling in so far as it thinks it:

- in accordance with any relevant code of practice and / or relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission;
- reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives; and
- in accordance with the authority's statement of licensing principles.

It is appreciated that as per the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities "moral objections to gambling are not a valid reason to reject applications for premises licences" (except as regards any 'no casino resolution' - see section on Casinos - page 12) and also that unmet demand is not a criterion for a licensing authority.

(i) Definition of "premises" – In the Act, "premises" is defined as including "any place". Section 152 therefore prevents more than one premises licence applying to any place. But a single building could be subject to more than one premises licence, provided they are for different parts of the building and the different parts of the building can be reasonably regarded as being different premises.

This licensing authority takes particular note of the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities which states that: licensing authorities should take particular care in considering applications for multiple licences for a building and those relating to a discrete part of a building used for other (non-gambling) purposes. In particular they should be aware of the following:

- The third licensing objective seeks to protect children from being harmed by gambling. In practice that means not only preventing them from taking part in gambling, but also preventing them from being in close proximity to gambling. Therefore premises should be configured so that children are not invited to participate in, have accidental access to or closely observe gambling where they are prohibited from participating.
- Entrances to and exits from parts of a building covered by one or more premises licences should be separate and identifiable so that the separation of different premises is not compromised and people do not "drift" into a gambling area. In this context it should normally be possible to access the premises without going through another licensed premises or premises with a permit.

- Customers should be able to participate in the activity name on the premises licence.

The Guidance also gives a list of factors which the licensing authority should be aware of, which may include:

- Do the premises have a separate registration for business rates
- Is the premises neighbouring premises owned by the same person or someone else?
- Can each of the premises be accessed from the street or a public passageway?
- Can the premises only be accessed from any other gambling premises?

This authority will consider these and other relevant factors in making its decision, depending on all the circumstances of the case.

(ii) Premises “ready for gambling”

The Guidance states that a licence to use premises for gambling should only be issued in relation to premises that the licensing authority can be satisfied are going to be ready to be used for gambling in the reasonably near future, consistent with the scale of building or alterations required before the premises are brought into use.

If the construction of a premises is not yet complete, or if they need alteration, or if the applicant does not yet have a right to occupy them, then an application for a provisional statement should be made instead.

In deciding whether a premises licence can be granted where there are outstanding construction or alteration works at a premises, this authority will determine applications on their merits, applying a two stage consideration process:-

- First, whether the premises ought to be permitted to be used for gambling
- Second, whether appropriate conditions can be put in place to cater for the situation that the premises are not yet in the state in which they ought to be before gambling takes place.

Applicants should note that this authority is entitled to decide that it is appropriate to grant a licence subject to conditions, but it is not obliged to grant such a licence.

(iv) Location - This licensing authority is aware that demand issues cannot be considered with regard to the location of premises but that considerations in terms of the licensing objectives are relevant to its decision-making. Should any specific policy be decided upon as regards areas where gambling premises should not be located, this statement will be updated. It should be noted that any such policy does not preclude any application being made and each application will be decided on its merits, with the onus upon the applicant showing how potential concerns can be overcome.

(v) Planning:

The Gambling Commission Guidance to Licensing Authorities states:

7.59 – In determining applications the licensing authority has a duty to take into consideration all relevant matters and not to take into consideration any irrelevant matters, i.e. those not related to gambling and the licensing objectives. One example of an irrelevant matter would be the likelihood of the applicant obtaining planning permission or building regulations approval for their proposal.

When dealing with a premises licence application for finished buildings, this authority will not take into account whether those buildings have to comply with the necessary planning or buildings consents. Fire or health and safety risks will not be taken into account, as these matters are dealt with under relevant planning control, buildings and other regulations and must not form part of the consideration for the premises licence.

As regards the term “vulnerable persons” it is noted that 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 gambling 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.” This licensing authority will consider this licensing objective on a case by case basis.

Conditions - Any conditions attached to licences will be proportionate and be:

- relevant to the need to make the proposed building suitable as a gambling facility;
- directly related to the premises and the type of licence applied for;
- fairly and reasonably related to the scale and type of premises; and
- reasonable in all other respects.

It is noted that there are conditions which the licensing authority cannot attach to premises licences which are:

- any condition on the premises licence which makes it impossible to comply with an operating licence condition;
- conditions relating to gaming machine categories, numbers, or method of operation;
- conditions which provide that membership of a club or body be required the Gambling Act 2005 specifically removes the membership requirement for casino and bingo clubs and this provision prevents it being reinstated; and
- conditions in relation to stakes, fees, winning or prizes.

Door Supervisors - If a licensing authority is concerned that a premises may attract disorder or be subject to attempts at unauthorised access (for example by children and young persons) then it may require that the entrances to the premises are controlled by a door supervisor, and is entitled to impose a premises condition to this effect. Where it is decided that supervision of entrances / machines is appropriate for particular cases, a consideration of whether these need to be SIA licensed or not will be necessary.

2. Adult Gaming Centres

This licensing authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority that there will be sufficient measures to, for example, ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the premises.

3. (Licensed) Family Entertainment Centres

This licensing authority will specifically have regard to the need to protect children and vulnerable persons from harm or being exploited by gambling and will expect the applicant to satisfy the authority, for example, that there will be sufficient measures to ensure that under 18 year olds do not have access to the adult only gaming machine areas.

This licensing authority will, as per the Gambling Commission's guidance, refer to the Commission's website to see any conditions that apply to operating licences covering the way in which the area containing the category C machines should be delineated. This licensing authority will also make itself aware of any mandatory or default conditions on these premises licences, when they have been published.

4. Casinos

This licensing authority has not passed a 'no casino' resolution under Section 166 of the Gambling Act 2005, but is aware that it has the power to do so. Should this licensing authority decide in the future to pass such a resolution, it will update this policy statement with details of that resolution. Any such decision will be made by Full Council.

5. Bingo premises

This licensing authority notes that the Gambling Commission's Guidance states:
18.4 Licensing authorities will need to satisfy themselves that bingo can be played in any bingo premises for which they issue a premises licence. This will be a relevant consideration where the operator of an existing bingo premises applies to vary their licence to exclude an area of the existing premises from its ambit and then applies for a new premises licence, or multiple licences, for that or those excluded areas.

18.7 Children and young people are allowed into bingo premises; however they are not permitted to participate in the bingo and if category B or C machines are made available for use these must be separated from areas where children and young people are allowed.

6. Betting premises

This licensing authority will, as per the Gambling Commission's Guidance, take into account the size of the premises, the number of counter positions available for person-to-person transactions, and the ability of staff to monitor the use of the machines by children and young persons (it is an offence for those under 18 to bet) or by vulnerable people, when considering the number/nature/circumstances of betting machines an operator wants to offer.

7. Tracks

This licensing authority is aware that tracks may be subject to one or more than one premises licence, provided each licence relates to a specified area of the track. As per the Gambling Commission's Guidance, this licensing authority will especially consider the impact upon the third licensing objective (i.e. the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling) and the need to ensure that entrances to each type of premises are distinct and that children are excluded from gambling areas where they are not permitted to enter.

8. Travelling Fairs

This licensing authority is responsible for deciding whether, where category D machines and / or equal chance prize gaming without a permit is to be made available for use at travelling fairs, the statutory requirement that the facilities for gambling amount to no more than an ancillary amusement at the fair is met. The licensing authority will also consider whether the applicant falls within the statutory definition of a travelling fair.

It is noted that the 27-day statutory maximum for the land being used as a fair applies on a per calendar year basis, and that it applies to the piece of land on which the fairs are held, regardless of whether it is the same or different travelling fairs occupying the land. This licensing authority will work with its neighbouring authorities to ensure that land which crosses our boundaries is monitored so that the statutory limits are not exceeded.

9. Provisional Statements

Section 204 of the Gambling Act provides for a person to make an application to the licensing authority for a provisional statement in respect of premises that he or she:

- expects to be constructed;
- expects to be altered; or
- expects to acquire a right to occupy.

The process for considering an application for a provisional statement is the same as that for a premises licence application. The applicant is obliged to give notice of the application in the same way as applying for a premises licence. Responsible authorities and interested parties may make representations and there are rights of appeal.

In contrast to the premises licence application, the applicant does not have to hold or have applied for an operating licence from the Gambling Commission (except in the case of a track) and they do not have to have a right to occupy the premises in respect of which their provisional application is made.

10. Reviews

Interested parties or responsible authorities can make requests for a review of a premises licence; however, it is for the Licensing Authority to decide whether the review is to be carried-out. The application for a review may be (but need not be) rejected if the Licensing Authority considers the grounds on which the review is sought:

- are not relevant to the Commission Guidance/codes of practice, statement of principles, or licensing objectives. Examples include demand for a gambling premise, traffic congestion.
- grounds are frivolous
- grounds are vexatious
- grounds will certainly not cause the Authority to revoke/suspend or remove/amend or attach conditions on the licence.
- are substantially the same grounds cited in a previous application relating to the same premise (Licensing Authority to take into account time lapsed since previous application).
- are substantially the same as representations made at the time the application relating to the same premise. (Licensing Authority to take into account time lapsed since previous application, also should not review the licence on the basis of the same arguments considered on the grant of the premises licence).

PART C

Permits / Temporary & Occasional Use Notice

1. Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre gaming machine permits

Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres (FECs) will perhaps be most commonly located at seaside resorts, in airports and at motorway service centres, and will cater for families, including unaccompanied children and young persons. Unlicensed FECs will be able to offer only category D gaming machines in reliance on a gaming machine permit.

Any number of category D gaming machines can be made available with such a permit (subject to other considerations, such as fire regulations and health and safety, which will not be issues for the Authority under the Gambling Act). Permits cannot be issued to vessels or vehicles. The Licensing Authority cannot attach conditions to this type of permit.

2. (Alcohol) Licensed premises automatic entitlement 2 machines and gaming machine permits

There is provision in the Act for premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises, to automatically have 2 gaming machines, of categories C and/or D. The premises merely need to notify the Licensing Authority and pay the prescribed fee. If a premises wishes to have more than 2 machines, then it needs to apply for a permit and the Licensing Authority must consider that application based upon the licensing objectives, any guidance issued by the Gambling Commission issued under Section 25 of the Gambling Act 2005, and “such matters as we think relevant.”

3. Prize Gaming Permits

Gaming is defined as prize gaming if the nature and size of the prize is not determined by the number of people playing or the amount paid for or raised by the gaming. The prizes will be determined by the operator before play commences. A prize gaming permit is a permit issued by the Authority to authorise the provision of facilities for gaming with prizes on specified premises.

4. Club Gaming and Club Machines Permits

The Licensing Authority may grant members’ clubs and miners’ welfare institutes (but not commercial clubs) club gaming permits which authorise the establishments to provide gaming machines, equal chance gaming and games of chance as prescribed in regulations, or club gaming machine permits which only authorise the use of gaming machines.

The Licensing Authority will only refuse an application on the grounds that:

- (a) the applicant does not fulfil the requirements for a members’ or miners’ welfare institute and therefore is not entitled to receive the type of permit for which it has applied;
- (b) the applicant’s premises are used wholly or mainly by children and/or young persons;
- (c) an offence under the Act or a breach of a permit has been committed by the applicant while providing gaming facilities;
- (d) a permit held by the applicant has been cancelled in the previous ten years;
or
- (e) an objection has been lodged by the Commission or the police.

Club gaming and club gaming machine permits allow the provision of no more than three gaming machines. These may be from categories B, C or D. The club is permitted to choose the combination of machines on its premises. The Licensing Authority may grant or refuse a permit, but it may not attach any conditions to a permit.

5. Temporary Use Notices / Occasional use Notices

In carrying out its functions in relation to Temporary Use Notices and Occasional Use Notices the Authority will have regard to the Act, the guidance issued by the Gambling Commission and any Regulations issued by the Secretary of State. Further information is available upon request.

It appears that their effect would be to permit regular gambling in a place that could be described as one set of premises, as recommended in the Gambling Commission's Guidance to Licensing Authorities.

6. Register

The Licensing Authority is required to maintain a public register. The register will be available for the public to view at any reasonable time. If requested, the Licensing Authority must supply a copy of the information contained in any entry in its register in legible form. A fee may be charged for any such copy. The Vale of Glamorgan Council will charge a standard fee of £25 per copy requested.

This document is available in Welsh, large print or Braille. If you wish to receive a copy of this statement in Welsh, large print or Braille or should you require any further information please contact:

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