

Social Responsibility Code of Practice Provision SR5.1.3

RPC rating: validated

Description of proposal

Alcohol drinks may be served in licenced casinos and bingo clubs and in some circumstances are offered or provided to customers free of charge. Since alcohol can impair judgement, protections were included from 2007 in the Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice set by the Gambling Commission. Licensed operators must observe these requirements, which include a mandatory marketing code of practice for non-remote casinos and bingo clubs controlling the circumstances under which alcoholic drinks can be offered.

It was subsequently recognised that equal chance games played in casinos- games such as poker which do not involve playing or staking against a bank and that are equally favourable to all participants – were inadvertently not included in this prohibition.

The proposed change brings equal chance gaming into the provision, and the revised wording also cover new gambling products that may be introduced in the future in casino or bingo clubs.

Impacts of proposal

There is a theoretical effect on all casinos in Great Britain that offer equal chance gaming. In practice, consultation evidence suggests that none of these would be inclined to offer free alcoholic drinks to customers playing poker – partly because they are unlikely to accept it, and partly because this would not be profitable.

Quality of submission

As the change was only introduced to clarify the drafting of the code provision and to make explicit what was understood to have already been taken to be the code's scope, the regulator has taken a light-touch approach. The RPC views the evidence as sufficient to justify the conclusion of this BIT Assessment.

However, the quality of the submission could have been improved by a more robust analysis of the impact on equal chance gaming. The regulator has indicated that

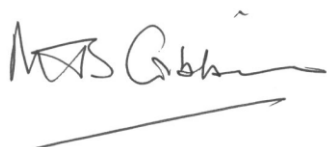
consultation evidence support its conclusion that the policy would have no impact on equal chance gaming. The regulator should, however, have collected more specific qualitative or quantitative evidence of this impact, with a wider range of stakeholders, or explained why it was not proportionate to do so. The results of the cost benefit analysis could then have been presented in a way that more clearly supported the conclusions in the IA.

Departmental assessment

Classification	Not Stated
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RPC assessment

Classification	Qualifying Regulatory Provision
EANCB – RPC validated ¹	Zero
Business Impact Target (BIT) Score ¹	Zero
Small and micro business assessment	Not required



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman

¹ For reporting purposes, the RPC validates EANCB and BIT score figures to the nearest £100,000.