

## **JERSEY GAMBLING COMMISSION**

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### **Bookmakers' Consultation**

Jersey's betting shops are being consulted on changes to their licences as the modernisation of the Island's gambling laws and regulations continues.

The Jersey Gambling Commission - which regulates all gambling in the Island - says that the new licence conditions would give them detailed financial information about betting across Jersey, and in different areas and individual premises.

The changes would be unlikely to make much difference to most Islanders, but would make it a condition of the 29 bookmakers' licences that they respect 'self-exclusion' requests by gamblers who want to be refused access to betting shops because they are concerned about their gambling.

The proposed new licence system would also allow bookmakers to apply for a licence to open on a Sunday like any other shop (the parish Constables will have the final say on whether they would be allowed to do so) and allow the advertising of licenced gambling services, subject to a strict code of practice.

Jersey Gambling Commission chief executive Dr Jason Lane said that although most Islanders would not notice much difference, the reform of the licences would make a big difference to the work of the commission.

'This is the next big step in the reform of our gambling regulations and will give us access to meaningful data about gambling Islandwide and in individual shops,' he said.

'The new policy statement makes it explicitly clear that anyone who does not respect a "self-exclusion request" will be putting their licence in jeopardy.

'It also requires licensees to demonstrate to us that they have promoted socially responsible gambling, and we hope that most will do so through donations to the independent Jersey Social Responsibility Fund.'

Changes to the existing license rules have to be made by the end of this year and the new rules will come into force from the start of 2014. The consultation proposals have been sent to the local gambling industry, and the consultation closes on **XXXX**.

**For further information please contact Ben Quérée at Direct Input on 715414.**

#### **About the commission...**

The Jersey Gambling Commission was established in September 2010 and is funded by licence fees, not the taxpayer. Its remit covers the regulation of gambling in the Island and advising the Economic Development Minister, Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel and the States on policy and legislation. It also operates a dedicated gambling therapy service for Jersey residents at [www.gamblingtherapy.je](http://www.gamblingtherapy.je). The commission works to three guiding principles enshrined in law, namely that gambling services should be conducted responsibly and with safeguards necessary to protect children and vulnerable people; that they should be regulated in accordance with generally accepted international standards to prevent fraud and money laundering, and should not be permitted to be a source of crime; and that they should be verifiably fair to consumers of those services.