

Equality Impact Assessment

Please see the leaflet *How to make an Equality Impact Assessment* for help to complete this form. You are also welcome to contact Delyth Gadlys Williams, Policy and Equality Officer on ext 32708 or DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru, for further assistance.

I Details

I.1. What is the name of the policy / service in question?

Gambling Policy Statement

I.2 What is the purpose of the policy / service that is being created or amended? What changes are being considered?

Under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 (the Act), Gwynedd Council has a duty to act as a Licensing Authority responsible for issuing Premises Licences, Notices, Permits and Gambling Registrations in Gwynedd.

All licensing authorities are required to prepare and publish a statement of gambling policy every three years.

The purpose of the statement is to outline the principles that the licensing authority will apply when exercising its licensing function in regulating gambling activities in accordance with the requirements of the Act. When exercising its functions under the Act, the licensing authority will promote the three licensing objectives namely -

- preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime;
- ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and
- protecting children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

I.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

Gwenan Mai Roberts, Public Protection Manager (Pollution and Licensing Control)
Environment Department

1.4 When did you commence the assessment? Which version is this?

The policy review was commenced in 2016. This is the final version that has been approved by the Central Licensing Committee in September 2017, following a public consultation over the Summer.

This is the first time the process of reviewing the policy has been assessed in terms of the possible impact on equality issues.

2) Action

2.1 Who are the partners it will be necessary to work with to undertake this assessment?

- Members of the Licensing Committee and the Cabinet
- Users and the public
- The Gambling Industry
- The Gambling Commission
- The Police

2.2 What measures have you taken to engage with people with equality characteristics?

A formal consultation process has taken place during July and August, and the draft policy statement was published inviting observations from the public, the industry and any relevant organisations.

2.3 What was the result of the engagement?

No responses were received during the engagement process.

2.4 On the basis of what other evidence do you operate?

There is no evidence to indicate that the Statement of Gambling Policy is likely to have an impact on any groups protected by the Act. North Wales Police statistics show that there is no evidence of crime and disorder in Gwynedd that may be linked to the contents of the current Gambling policy. Although the Gambling Act came into effect in 2005; the Gambling Commission guidance on formulating and reviewing policy leads Licensing Authorities to take into consideration the equality characteristics of citizens that may be impacted by gambling practices when determining a premises licence etc. Therefore, equality characteristics have been considered when the Statement of Gambling Policy was formulated in compliance with the original Act; and each time the Policy has been reviewed following this.

The Act and the new policy expect gambling licence operators to undertake a local risk assessment to identify any nearby sensitive institutions such as schools, centres for vulnerable adults; residential areas with a large number of children.

To facilitate the process of allowing gambling licence operators to assess the risks of operating the licences locally, the Licensing Authority has created a profile of the Gwynedd area. The area profile will facilitate the task of conducting risk assessments; and assist to ensure that gambling activities do not negatively affect any section of the population.

2.5 Are there any gaps in the evidence that needs to be collected?

There is a lack of evidence in the field to prove if gambling policies have an impact in any way on the population. The Gambling Commission has published a briefing paper that summarises the current position in terms of evidence of harm associated with gambling practices*

**Gambling –related harm as a Public Health issue. Briefing paper for Local Authorities and Local Public Health providers (England and Wales) October 2017*

3) Identifying the Impact

3.1 What impact will the new policy/service or the amendments to the policy or service have on people with equality characteristics?

Characteristics	What type of impact? (delete if not applicable)	In what way? What is the evidence?
Race (including nationality)	None	There is no specific evidence to indicate that there is an impact on race or nationality - however, there is a suggestion in a recent paper by the Gambling Commission* that some groups are more likely to be open to harm due to the impact of gambling.
The Welsh Language	none	There is no evidence to show that the gambling policy or gambling activities have an impact on the Welsh Language.
Disability	The potential of a small negative impact	Recent research* indicates that some groups of vulnerable persons are more likely to have problems with gambling in some circumstances.
Sex	Possible minor negative impact	There is no specific evidence grounds to support that the impact of gambling can be more negative to men rather than women - however, work by the Gambling Commission* indicates that the tendency to gamble can be a problem amongst men - where other factors contribute to the likelihood of gambling problems - such as mental health issues or dependency on drugs/alcohol
Age	Possible minor negative impact	Recent research* indicates that young people are more likely to have problems as a result of gambling.
Sexual orientation	none	There is no evidence that the gambling policy or gambling activities can have an impact.
Religion or belief (or non-belief)	none	The policy states that companies need to be sensitive to customs and religions when choosing locations for gambling centres.
Gender reassignment	none	There is no evidence that the gambling policy or gambling activities can have an impact.
Pregnancy and maternity	none	There is no evidence that the gambling policy or gambling activities can have an impact.
Marriage and civil partnership	none	There is no evidence that the gambling policy or gambling activities can have an impact.

3.2 Does the policy or the service answer these General Duties?

General Duties of the Equality Act	Delete if not applicable	In what way? What is the evidence?
Abolishing illegal discrimination, harassment and victimisation	No	Not relevant
Promoting equal opportunities	No	Not relevant
Building good relationships	No	Not relevant

4) **Analysing the results**

4.1 **Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, positive impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duty and what is the reason for this?**

It is not anticipated that the policy will have a significantly positive impact on any of the equality characteristics, or the general duty.

4.1 **Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, negative impact on any of the equality characteristics or the General Duty and what is the reason for this?**

It is not anticipated that the policy will have a significantly negative impact on any of the equality characteristics, or the general duty.

4.3 **What should be done?**

Choose one of the following:

Continue with the policy / service as it is robust	Yes
Adapt the policy to delete any barriers	
Suspend and delete the policy as the detrimental impacts are too big	
Continue with the policy as any detrimental impact can be justified	

4.4 **What steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?**

Ensure the companies responsible for running gambling businesses in the area operate and follow the principles set in the policy and are in compliance with the Act.

4.5 If you do not act further to delete or reduce the negative impacts, explain why here.

Although evidence highlights the possibility of minor negative impacts of gambling on some equality groups the evidence is insufficient. Also, it is much better that gambling is regulated by the Council and it is the Council's duty to do so.

5) Monitoring

5.1 What steps will you take to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the policy or service (action plan)?

It is a requirement that every company that operates gambling licenses and permits that are under the responsibility of the Licensing Authority (Gwynedd Council) are in compliance with the Act and that they also follow the principles and act in accordance with this policy. The Council and the Gambling Commission will ensure compliance with the Act and will take enforcement measures if needed.