



## Environment & Regeneration

Municipal Offices, Upper Street  
London  
N1 1YA

Report of: **Director of Environment & Regeneration.**

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Licensing Regulatory Committee	22nd May 2007	3	All
Exempt	No		

### Subject: **FEES AND CHARGES FOR GAMBLING PREMISES LICENCES**

#### 1. **Synopsis**

1.1 This report sets out the proposed fees to be introduced for premises licensed for gambling under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 as of the 23rd May 2007

#### 2. **Recommendations**

2.1 To adopt the fees scale as set out in schedule A, to come into effect on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007.

#### 3. **Background**

3.1 Under the Gambling Act 2005 councils will become responsible for licensing the following premises:

- Casinos
- Bingo premises
- Betting shops
- Tracks
- Family Entertainment Centres (Arcades with specific gaming machine entitlements)
- Adult Gaming Centres (Arcades with specific gaming machine entitlements)

...and issuing the following permits:

- Alcohol licensed premises gaming machines permits
- 'Unlicensed' Family Entertainment Centre gaming machine permits

- Club gaming permits
  - Club gaming machine permits
  - Prize gaming permits
- 3.2 The Government has allowed Local Authorities to set their own level of fees for gambling premises licences. Permit fees have been set nationally by central government.

Under the Gambling Act 2005 the Government has set, via Regulations, *maximum* premises licence fee levels. Councils may set their own fees at any levels up to these maximums but those fees must be based upon cost-recovery only. The Gambling Act 2005 specifically states that local authorities shall:

*“aim to ensure that the income from fees... as nearly as possible equates to the costs of providing the service to which the fees relates” (Gambling Act 2005 Section 212(2)(d))*

- 3.4 All Local Authorities are being encouraged to set realistic fees that reflect the cost of service provision rather than to maximise income. The gambling industry is very sceptical that local authorities will use their discretion and has indicated that it will consider using the judicial review process to challenge fee levels where it believes that the fees have not been set on a cost recovery basis. In addition to this the minister retains the ability to remove local flexibility and set fees nationally.
- 3.5 The fee levels proposed in this report have been set on a full cost recovery basis. There has been a detailed analysis of the processes involved, and using our experience of processing Licensing Act 2003 applications and two recent new gaming applications under the existing regime, it has been possible to set fee levels which reflect costs. These estimates have been benchmarked with fees set by Liverpool City Council and the maximum permitted levels set in the regulations.
- 3.6 The proposed schedule of fees is shown in bold in Appendix A. The figures in brackets show the maximum permitted fee level.

## 4. Implications

- 4.1 **Financial implications:** The proposed fee structure aims to generate sufficient income to cover the cost of the gambling premises licensing regime. In Appendix A the recommended fee levels has been calculated using a proportion of officer’s time aligned to the estimated level of uptake. The estimated income will be between £20,000 and £30,000 in 2007-08 and should cover the costs involved in processing these licences.
- 4.2 **Legal Implications:** Regulations made under the Gambling Act permit local authorities to set fees for regulating licensed premises used for gambling providing they do not exceed the maximum permitted levels. The proposed schedule of fees set out in bold in Appendix A fall within the range of the maximum permitted level.
- 4.3 **Equalities Impact Assessment:** fee levels have been set on a cost recovery basis providing a fair and equitable system whereby businesses pay a fee that is proportionate to the council’s cost in delivering the service they require.

## 5. Conclusion and recommendations

- 5.1 The gambling premises licence fees should be set on a cost recovery basis as indicated in the report..

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Received by: Assistant Director (Public Protection) Date

Head of Democratic Services Date

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# Gambling Premises Licence Fees

# Appendix A

Figures in bold are recommended fee levels for gambling premises in Islington  
(Figures in brackets are the maximum permitted fee set by regulation)

Premises Type	Transitional Fast Track Application £	Transitional Non-Fast Track Application £	New Application £	Annual Fee £
Bingo Club	<b>250</b> (300)	<b>1000</b> (1750)	<b>1425</b> (3500)	<b>730</b> (1000)
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	<b>250</b> (300)	<b>1000</b> (1500)	<b>1425</b> (3000)	<b>450</b> (600)
Tracks	<b>250</b> (300)	<b>1000</b> (1250)	<b>1425</b> (2500)	<b>730</b> (1000)
Family Entertainment Centres	<b>250</b> (300)	<b>1000</b> (1000)	<b>1425</b> (2000)	<b>730</b> (750)
Adult Gaming Centre	<b>250</b> (300)	<b>1000</b> (1000)	<b>1425</b> (2000)	<b>730</b> (1000)

	Applicati on to Vary £	Applicati on to Transfer £	Applicati on for Re- Instatem ent £	Applicati on for Provisio nal Stateme nt £	Licence Applicati on (provisio nal Stateme nt holders £	Copy Licence £	Notificati on of Change £
Bingo Club	<b>1000</b> (1750)	<b>120</b> (1200)	<b>120</b> (1200)	<b>1425</b> (3500)	<b>120</b> (1200)	<b>25</b> (25)	<b>50</b> (50)
Betting Premises (excluding Tracks)	<b>1425</b> (1500)	<b>120</b> (1200)	<b>120</b> (1200)	<b>1425</b> (3000)	<b>120</b> (1200)	<b>25</b> (25)	<b>50</b> (50)
Tracks	<b>1250</b> (1250)	<b>120</b> (950)	<b>120</b> (950)	<b>1425</b> (2500)	<b>120</b> (950)	<b>25</b> (25)	<b>50</b> (50)
Family Entertainment Centres	<b>1000</b> (1000)	<b>120</b> (950)	<b>120</b> (950)	<b>1425</b> (2000)	<b>120</b> (950)	<b>25</b> (25)	<b>50</b> (50)
Adult Gaming Centre	<b>1000</b> (1000)	<b>120</b> (1200)	<b>120</b> (1200)	<b>1425</b> (2000)	<b>120</b> (1200)	<b>25</b> (25)	<b>25</b> (25)

