

## **MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

For the purposes of this guidance, the Commission has the following principle statutory functions:

- issuing operating and personal licences to gambling businesses and individuals occupying certain positions in the gambling industry, with appropriate conditions, and ensuring that holders of licences adhere to their terms
- publishing codes of practice
- publishing statutory guidance to licensing authorities.

The Commission also has a duty to advise the Secretary of State on gambling and its regulation. To ensure that the Commission is well placed to provide such advice, it monitors developments in gambling in Great Britain and in other jurisdictions. It works closely with a range of regulatory partners, including licensing authorities, the Advertising Standards Authority, the Information Commissioner's Office, Ofcom, and with stakeholders including the industry itself, faith and community groups, those with lived experience of gambling harm, government departments and bodies working in the field of gambling research.

### **Functions of Licensing Authorities**

Licensing authorities (as defined in s.2 of the Act) are responsible for local gambling regulation and the Act gives them responsibility for a number of regulatory functions in relation to gambling activities. These include:

- issuing a statement of licensing policy (policy statement) setting expectations about how gambling will be regulated in the area
- responsibility for licensing gambling premises
- the issue of permits to family entertainment centres (FEC) for the use of certain lower stake gaming machines
- granting permits for prize gaming
- registering society lotteries that fall below certain thresholds
- regulating members' clubs and miners' welfare institutes which undertake certain gaming activities
- setting and collecting fees.

The Act also provides a system of temporary and occasional use notices. These authorise premises that are not licensed generally for gambling purposes to be used for certain types of gambling, for limited periods.

In exercising their statutory functions, licensing authorities have a broad discretion in regulating the local provision of gambling through the wide ranging powers at their disposal, including:

- issuing a statement of licensing policy, setting expectations about how gambling will be regulated in a particular area
- granting, refusing and attaching conditions to premises licences
- reviewing premises licences and attaching conditions or revoking them as a result.