



Gambling Act 2005 - Background

What is the background to the Act?

The Government department responsible for the Act is the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). The policy proposals were initially set-out in a White Paper “A Safe Bet for Success” (Cm 5397) published in March 2002 which was the Government’s response to a report of the Gambling Review Body (Cm 5206) which was published in July 2001. A draft Gambling Bill was published on 19th November 2003. This and subsequent draft sections of the Bill were considered by a Joint Scrutiny Committee of both Houses of Parliament.

The Gambling Act 2005 received Royal Assent in April 2005. It is expected to come fully into force by Autumn 2007, when the Commission will take on the full range of functions under the act, and operating and personal licences issued by the Commission in the transition period will come into effect.

The objectives under the Act are:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or 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 persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

