

16<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Mr Richardson

Dear Mr Richardson,

## Internal Review 1072/14 Re case ref 610/14

Thank you for your request for an internal review dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

### Relevant Background

On 23rd April we responded to your request for information submitted on 2nd April, as follows:

#### ***“Requested Information***

*Please could you release to me information on how many Licensed Betting Offices were licensed in the borough in each year from 2007 to 2013.*

*For clarity: I wish to understand the total number of bookmakers licenced in each year 2007-13 and how that has changed over time.*

*This means that licenced bookmakers whose licences have lapsed, been surrendered or have been revoked need to be included, just information of when the currently licenced premises were first licenced is potentially misleading when analysing the trend over time.*

#### ***Response***

	ISSUED	RENEWED	SURRENDERED	REVOKED	Total live
2007	20				20
2008		20			20
2009	1	18	2		19
2010	1	15		3	16
2011		16			16
2012	1	16	1		17
2013	1	16			17

**On 23<sup>rd</sup> April you then requested the following:**

*"Thanks for this response, I do have a couple of queries though re the totals for 2010 and 2012.*

*2007 - 20*

*2008 - 20*

*2009 - 19 (+1 -2)*

*2010 - 16 (+1 -3) ?lapse*

*2011 - 16 (+1)*

*2012 - 17 (+1 -1) ?16*

*2013 - 17 (+1)*

*I think the 2010 figure of 16 is right but as there is no column for lapsed as opposed to surrendered or revoked I am assuming this is what happened (it matches the renewal number). Am I correct that one lapsed in 2010?*

*The 2012 figure is more puzzling, with one new and one surrendered the total should probably be 16 not 17 with the 2013 additional licence bringing the total up to 17 in 2013. Is this correct?"*

**On 22<sup>nd</sup> May we responded as follows:**

*"There are no lapsed ones as such. What did happen that a number of them changed ownership- and hence their name changed".*

**On 30<sup>th</sup> May you requested:**

*"Thanks for this confirmation that the category "lapsed" does not affect the total. I appreciate that transfers of ownership can create confusion but the totals for 2010 and 2012 remain unexplained and anomalous.*

*Please could you check the totals again as the reported change does not match the reported total in these years".*

**On 16<sup>th</sup> June we responded as follows:**

*"We have provided the most comprehensive answer we can give which has been sent to you previously. It has been extracted from the database by our I.T. officer. It covers all the years requested and we are unable to expand any further".*

**On 18<sup>th</sup> June you requested an internal review and stated the following:**

*"I am writing to request an internal review of Bath and North East Somerset Council's handling of my FOI request 'Licenced Betting Offices in Bath and North East Somerset 2007-13'.*

*Whilst I accept that a genuine effort has been made to respond fully to my request the data supplied is internally inconsistent. It cannot be accurate as the running total does not match the changes reported, in particular for the years 2010 and 2012.*

*I recognise that this is an interrogation of a database and so may have anomalies but there is a statutory duty on the council under the Gambling Act 2005 to maintain a register of licencing events and make that available to the public. The council should have, indeed does, have the information to check and if necessary correct these anomalies by examining that register”.*

## **Determination**

We have now reviewed the information supplied and have now identified an error in the information provided previously. I apologise for this confusion.

We have reviewed the original request and can now provide the correct information as follows:

	ISSUED	SURRENDERED	REVOKED	EXPIRED	TOTAL
2007	18				18
2008			1		17
2009		3			14
2010	1		1		14
2011					14
2012	1				15
2013	1*			1*	15

*\*This was in fact the same premises which changed from Creedbet to Coral.*

In order to assist we can now also enclose a spreadsheet setting out the information in full. We can also confirm that the public register can be found on the Licensing website at:

[www.bathnes.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/licensing) on the section called “Public Register”.

## **Action Required**

No further action required.

## **Right of Appeal**

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF  
[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk).

Kind regards,

Jeff Wring  
Divisional Director - Risk & Assurance