



## Outlook

**Fw: Gambling Levy - Evidence Reviews and Spokes**

From [REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>

**Date** Wed 6/18/2025 11:42 AM

To [REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk;  
[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>

Cc [REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>

FYI - UKRI announcement going out next Thursday, DCMS are reviewing the lines.

**From:**

**Sent:** 18 June 2025 11:12

**To:**

Cc:

@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>;

@gamblingcommission.gov.

**Subject:** Re: Gambling Levy - Evidence Reviews and Spokes

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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Thanks [REDACTED] - that's perfect, sounds good

On Wed, 18 Jun 2025 at 11:08, wrote:

Hi [REDACTED] thanks for coming back.

In the first instance we will just be publicising the funding opportunities from next Thursday, using the below messaging and operational info (eg closing dates etc).

We anticipate being able to announce investments in January and we were planning on engaging you re that later in the year as there will be more comms opportunities.

Hope that helps but let us know if you need anything else.

Thanks

**From:**

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 18, 2025 11:01 AM

**To:**

**Cc:**

[gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>;

[gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>;

**Subject:** Re: Gambling Levy Evidence Reviews and Spokes

Morning all,

here on the comms team at DCMS, have spoken to this morning to get across this.

Would it be possible to get a bit of a rough timeline from UKRI side on the process beyond next Thursday so we can see where there might be comms moments to assist with further down the line?

Thanks,

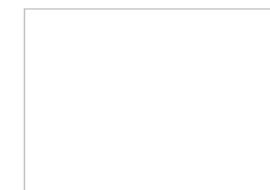
On Tue, 17 Jun 2025 at 16:43, wrote:

Hi

Thanks for sending on. Looping in and and from our comms teams.

, shall we discuss separately so I can give you the context?

Kind regards,



On Tue, 17 Jun 2025 at 16:36, wrote:

Hi [REDACTED] – CCing you for a response please [REDACTED]

Many thanks

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2025 4:35 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

[@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

[gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>:

**Subject:** RE: Gambling Levy - Evidence Reviews and Spokes

Hi [REDACTED] we wanted to share our top line narrative with you which we'll use in the social media for our funding opportunities next week.

With thanks to [REDACTED] at the GC for input, we've broken this down into the overarching purpose of the levy as a whole, and then the detail on the UKRI-GC-managed element.

If you could provide any feedback and share with comms colleagues this week I'd be grateful.

#### Overarching narrative

- The government has brought forward a statutory levy to generate funds for the research, prevention and treatment of gambling harms.

#### Programme sub-narrative:

- UKRI and the Gambling Commission will deliver levy-funded research programmes to inform future policy and regulation, collaborating closely where appropriate.
- The Gambling Commission will direct further research in line with its licensing objectives and taking account of its current evidence gaps and priorities.
- UKRI will oversee a bespoke research programme on gambling, supporting interdisciplinary research and capacity building to prevent and treat gambling harm, and **strengthen the evidence base for a national strategy – should we refer to the strategy at this stage?**
- The UKRI programme will generate the research needed to tackle both treatment and prevention by connecting academic researchers with partners across charities, health,

and business, and aligning closely with the levy's treatment and prevention streams.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 9:07 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Gambling Levy - Evidence Reviews and Spokes

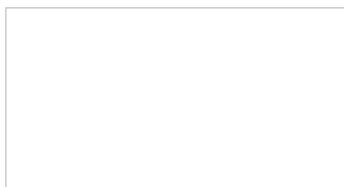
Hi all,

Sorry for the slow response.

I won't be able to make the session on Friday unfortunately. I'm very happy to connect you with my comms colleagues as and when helpful but also v happy to feed into any comms plans which come out of the session. Diaries are v clear on my end Weds-Fri next week too if a quick catch up would be useful.

Sorry to be a pain,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

On Tue, 3 Jun 2025 at 11:50, [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)> wrote:

Great, I'll send over an appointment.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 10:47

**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Gambling Levy Evidence Reviews and Spokes

**CAUTION:** This email is from an external source be careful of attachments and links

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks, how's about 2pm on Friday?

Best wishes  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 3:36 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Gambling Levy - Evidence Reviews and Spokes

Hi [REDACTED]

It looks like Friday afternoon would suit us best for a call with our comms colleagues - we can do anytime between 2 and 4pm if that works for you?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 09:35

Hi all, as discussed last week here is our draft of both the overarching narrative, and the research programme sub-narrative.

Grateful for thoughts this week please so we can share with DCMS and then use in our funding opp comms at the end of the month.

Overarching narrative (drawn from DCMS comms):

- The government's gambling levy on gambling profits and online slot stake limits will provide funding to prevent and tackle gambling harm. Funding raised through the levy will support activities focused on treatment, prevention and research.

Programme sub-narrative:

- UKRI and the Gambling Commission will deliver the levy-funded research programme, supporting interdisciplinary research and capacity building to prevent and treat gambling harm, and strengthen the evidence base for a national strategy.
- The programme will generate the research needed to tackle both treatment and prevention by connecting academic researchers with partners across charities, health, and business, and aligning closely with the levy's treatment and prevention streams.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Hi all,

As part of the calls that we've launched we're working on some additional wording that provides the basis for excluding companies from receiving funding from the research programme if their core business is associated with harm. The proposed paragraph is copied below. The question we had was around how we define those companies. Obviously "licence holders" is a easily identifiable group, whereas under the paragraph below we could be open to challenge from companies that we might exclude. We therefore need a robust process for excluding companies and dealing with any appeals. Do DCMS or GC have any existing mechanisms or suggestions by which we could conduct this?

There's also a question of framing. At present it's written as specific to the UKRI activity under the levy. We're happy to keep it as this, but if we wanted to expand this to cover the whole Research Strand we can discuss that, do let us know.

Some fairly rapid feedback would be appreciated as we've had some pressure from some external groups that we're aiming to respond to promptly. Happy to jump on a quick call if that helps.

Best wishes

Under the Research Programme on Gambling UKRI does not permit engagement with industries whose core business can be associated with harm to public health or societal wellbeing, in line with our ethical standards and harm-based exclusion principles. Exceptions may be made for time-limited, purpose-specific interactions deemed essential to achieving legitimate and high-quality research objectives (for example, access to proprietary datasets or materials), provided that:

- there is no direct funding or co-authorship from the excluded entity;
- the interaction is subject to robust ethical review and declared transparently;
- appropriate safeguards are in place to prevent undue influence, reputational risk, or conflicts of interest;
- and the public benefit of the research demonstrably outweighs the risks of engagement.

Such exceptions must be approved in advance through UKRI's due diligence and governance mechanisms. Applicants should consider UKRI's policies and guidance on [Preventing Harm in Research](#) when preparing applications to this call.



## Outlook

**Fw: Harms based exclusion**

**From** [REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>  
**Date** Thu 7/10/2025 3:49 PM  
**To** [REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 July 2025 13:54  
**To:** [REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] amblingcommission.gov.uk>;  
**Subject:** Re: Harms based exclusion

**CAUTION:** This email is from an external source - be careful of attachments and links

Thanks [REDACTED], v happy to jump on a call to discuss. Me and [REDACTED] talked through this too - from my perspective, UKRI's position vs the Commission's in respect of research commissioning is quite different, particularly on the framing around industry and also the purpose of research, which is much narrower for the GC. But a harm-based exclusion is a helpful mechanism to provide further reassurances around the independence of levy-funded research but keen to think through what's appropriate here.

11

On Wed, 9 Jul 2025 at 12:56, [@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

I'd be happy to jump on a call about this if [REDACTED] is free as well?

Thanks,

11

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 July 2025 10:06  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>;  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]



Cc: [REDACTED]

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 283: 2689-2693.

As part of the calls that we've launched we're working on some additional wording that provides the basis for excluding companies from receiving funding from the research programme if their core business is associated with harm. The proposed paragraph is copied below. The question we had was around how we define those companies. Obviously "licence holders" is a easily identifiable group, whereas under the paragraph below we could be open to challenge from companies that we might exclude. We therefore need a robust process for excluding companies and dealing with any appeals. Do DCMS or GC have any existing mechanisms or suggestions by which we could conduct this?

There's also a question of framing. At present it's written as specific to the UKRI activity under the levy. We're happy to keep it as this, but if we wanted to expand this to cover the whole Research Strand we can discuss that, do let us know.

Some fairly rapid feedback would be appreciated as we've had some pressure from some external groups that we're aiming to respond to promptly. Happy to jump on a quick call if that helps.



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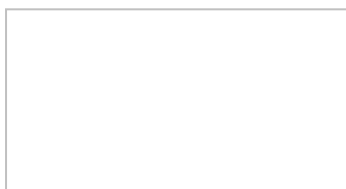
Such exceptions must be approved in advance through UKRI's due diligence and governance mechanisms. Applicants should consider UKRI's policies and guidance on [Preventing Harm in Research](#) when preparing applications to this call.

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--



[Redacted signature block containing several lines of blacked-out text]

Shall we aim for 4pm tomorrow if that works?

Best wishes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 9, 2025 2:21 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] @gamblingcommission.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] @gamblingcommission.gov.uk>;

**Subject:** Re: Harms based exclusion

Thanks [REDACTED] Anytime after 3:45 works for me.

114

On Wed, 9 Jul 2025 at 14:03, [REDACTED]@[gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED] agree - I don't think we'd want a broad-brush approach across the whole Research stream here given the type of work that we are likely to be funding.

I'm free from 2pm tomorrow, except from 3:15 to 3:45. If that works for you both I'll send over a Teams link.

Thanks,

11

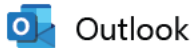
██████████

© 2006 The Authors

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 09 July 2025 13:54  
To: [REDACTED] [@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [\\_ \[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>;

**Subject:** Re: Harms based exclusion

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**Fw: Harms based exclusion**

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**From** [REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>  
**Date** Tue 7/8/2025 11:57 AM  
**To** [REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>

FYI - let me know if you have any views on this.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 July 2025 10:06  
**To:** [REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>;  
[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Harms based exclusion

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Hi all,

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Some fairly rapid feedback would be appreciated as we've had some pressure from some external groups that we're aiming to respond to promptly. Happy to jump on a quick call if that helps.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

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- the interaction is subject to robust ethical review and declared transparently;
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- and the public benefit of the research demonstrably outweighs the risks of engagement.

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Dear all – thank you so much for all the input, and I’m delighted to have the lines cleared and in place for next week. I’m of course happy to revise our wording to align with current preferences on terminology.

That said, I would gently note that UKRI’s KPIs for the Research Programme on Gambling (RPG) have been designed to enable cumulative insight, long-term capacity building, and cross-sectoral collaboration elements structured to feed through to any future national strategy on gambling harms, should one be developed.

While we are happy to avoid referring to a national strategy at this stage, I do feel it’s important that any programme of this significance holds that ambition — to build an evidence base that not only meets current policy needs but also supports future strategic direction.

As I said, very happy to adjust the narrative — and really pleased we’re able to stay joined up on comms with partners across the levy ecosystem. Looking forward to next week — it feels like a real milestone and a great moment for the programme.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 18, 2025 2:03 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:gamblingcommission.gov.uk);

[REDACTED] [@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:@gamblingcommission.gov.uk); [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Gambling Levy - Evidence Reviews and Spokes

Thanks for confirming [REDACTED] – happy to remove that reference.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 18, 2025 2:01 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>;

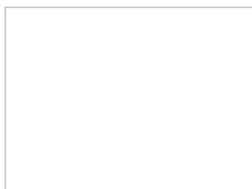
[REDACTED] <[gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Gambling Levy - Evidence Reviews and Spokes

Hi [REDACTED] we'd prefer you not to refer to a national strategy as it suggests a national strategy for gambling harm and that's not language we've used elsewhere, either internally or publicly. Thank you for checking. [REDACTED] might have some more thoughts when she's back in tomorrow, but just wanted to make that point clear.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

On Wed, 18 Jun 2025 at 12:03, [REDACTED]  
wrote:

Great, thanks [REDACTED] – just for next week, can DCMS colleagues please confirm re the reference to the national strategy as highlighted in red below please?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 18, 2025 11:12 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk);

[REDACTED] [amblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>;

**Subject:** Re: Gambling Levy - Evidence Reviews and Spokes

Thanks [REDACTED] - that's perfect, sounds good

On Wed, 18 Jun 2025 at 11:08, [REDACTED]  
wrote:

Hi [REDACTED] thanks for coming back.

In the first instance we will just be publicising the funding opportunities from next Thursday, using the below messaging and operational info (eg closing dates etc).

We anticipate being able to announce investments in January and we were planning on engaging you re that later in the year as there will be more comms opportunities.

Hope that helps but let us know if you need anything else.

Thanks

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2025 09:35

**To:** [REDACTED]

[amblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:amblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Gambling Levy Evidence Reviews and Spokes

Hi [REDACTED]

Great, I am catching up with my comms colleagues later this afternoon so I'll see what their availability is for later this week. At the moment I've got Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon fairly free. I'll drop you an update later today.

Thanks,

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 6:49 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

[REDACTED]  
<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Gambling Levy Evidence Reviews and Spokes

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Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry for the slow reply. I think the intention was that a meeting next week would just allow a chance to check in on progress, but also start to loop in comms.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 4:29 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Gambling Levy - Evidence Reviews and Spokes

Hi [REDACTED]

I think it might prove tricky to get [REDACTED] on a call next week as he is in the US at a conference, so with the time difference and working around the various sessions during the day he'll struggle to join us.

Can you remind me what we were intending to cover – was it comms around the upcoming UKRI call, GC roadmaps in July etc?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, May 23, 2025 2:41 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Gambling Levy Evidence Reviews and Spokes

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Hi [REDACTED] all,

Thanks. Looking at calendars the Friday afternoon might be a possibility (I'm assuming afternoons are better for dialling in from the US). Is there a particular time that would work well for you?

I'd also like to introduce [REDACTED] from UKRI comms. He's going to be leading on comms for the research programme on our side.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 4:27 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Gambling Levy - Evidence Reviews and Spokes

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for sharing this, I've added some comments and a brief early update on our evidence roadmaps in the attached – hope it's helpful and as always happy to discuss.

I think [REDACTED] may need to see what his availability is for the first week of June, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] From my side I'm available for much of that week, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> afternoons look particularly clear for me. For info I am then on leave w/c 9<sup>th</sup> June. Were we also going to loop comms colleagues into that call?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2025 1:14 PM

**To** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>;  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Gambling Levy Evidence Reviews and Spokes

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Dear all,

Great to see you on Friday, hope you had a good weekend. I promised the detail on the evidence reviews and spokes that we're looking at commissioning. Obviously these aren't intended to be exhaustive and we're going to leave a space for areas that we haven't thought of. We'll also look to include some text that reflects that other activity will be taking place between now and when we award (I think you mentioned you'd be publishing the next phase of the roadmaps in July?).

In order to get things ready for launch next month unfortunately we need a fairly tight turn around, if possible could we have comments by cop Wednesday?

#### Rapid Evidence Reviews

The team have done a slight rethink on these to distinguish them from the proposed spoke areas. The list below isn't exhaustive, and we will add other things following conversations with DHSC and others. I'd also be keen to see a "free for all" option for things we haven't thought about.

1. **Intersectionality:** How overlapping identities (e.g., race, gender, disability) shape gambling experiences and harms. Can also include gambling harms in marginalised communities (those who may face higher risks of gambling harm but are under represented in research and support services).
2. **Structural Drivers:** The role of poverty, housing policy, and digital inequality in gambling vulnerability.
3. **Lived Experience:** First person narratives and community led research into gambling harms
4. **Digital Gambling Ecosystems:** The impact of targeted advertising, loot boxes, cryptocurrency-based esports and algorithmic design on vulnerable users, children and adolescents.
5. **Preventive and Protective Factors:** Most research focuses on harm, not resilience or protective community

practices.

6. **Co-occurring issues** (to include mental health, substance use, and financial hardship, as well as potential integrated treatment models)

#### Hub and Spoke

At present the thematics are framed to align with the broad areas of the evidence gaps document, but we can add things or slightly alter the focus if necessary. Are there particular areas that you would especially value seeing? As we discussed I think there is a distinction in the types of research (with GC work focussing on regulation) which we can then emphasise as the awards get going.

We also discussed having a catch up in early June. Would you be able to suggest some dates/times that would work for you?

Best wishes



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Thanks [REDACTED] – [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] if you have thoughts please shout now

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2025 9:22 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Gambling Levy research programme narrative

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Many thanks [REDACTED] I'll share with DCMS and, dependent on feedback, use this as the basis for our social media next week.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2025 9:16 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>;  
[REDACTED]<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Gambling Levy research programme narrative

Agreed

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2025 8:49 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Gambling Levy research programme narrative



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Hi [REDACTED] thanks for this. The strategy reference came from discussion with DCMS and is based on their long-term aspiration; we can remove for now and test with DCMS as to whether they would want it referenced at this stage.

Happy to accept the edits, but I don't think we need to specify that half of the funding needs to go to treatment in the overarching narrative?

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 12, 2025 12:58 PM

**To:**

<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>;

<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>;

<[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Gambling Levy research programme narrative

Thanks [REDACTED] – the online stakes limits is a separate piece.

I've popped a suggestion below – also welcome GC comms colleagues perspectives on this. I'm not sure what 'national strategy' you're referring to so I removed that.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Overarching narrative

- The government has brought forward a statutory levy to generate funds for the research, prevention and treatment of gambling harms, with half of funding to directly benefit NHS-led gambling treatment system

Programme sub-narrative:

- UKRI and the Gambling Commission will deliver levy-funded research programmes to inform future policy and regulation, collaborating closely where appropriate.

- The Gambling Commission will direct further research in line with its licensing objectives and taking account of its current Evidence Gaps and Priorities.
- UKRI will oversee a bespoke Research Programme on Gambling, supporting interdisciplinary research and capacity building to prevent and treat gambling harm, and strengthen the evidence base for a national strategy.
- The UKRI programme will generate the research needed to tackle both treatment and prevention by connecting academic researchers with partners across charities, health, and business, and aligning closely with the levy's treatment and prevention streams.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2025 9:23 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Gambling Levy research programme narrative

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Hi all, as discussed last week here is our draft of both the overarching narrative, and the research programme sub-narrative.

Grateful for thoughts this week please so we can share with DCMS and then use in our funding opp comms at the end of the month.

Overarching narrative (drawn from DCMS comms):

- The government's gambling levy on gambling profits and online slot stake limits will provide funding to prevent and tackle gambling harm. Funding raised through the levy will support activities focused on treatment, prevention and research.

Programme sub-narrative:

- UKRI and the Gambling Commission will deliver the levy-funded research programme, supporting interdisciplinary research and capacity building to prevent and treat gambling harm, and strengthen the evidence base for a national strategy.
- The programme will generate the research needed to tackle both treatment and prevention by connecting academic researchers with partners across charities, health, and business, and aligning closely with the levy's treatment and prevention streams.

Many thanks

Sure we will catch up on this I'm interested whether it covers lobby groups as well as operators. Etc

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 9, 2025 2:37 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Harms based exclusion

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Shall we aim for 4pm tomorrow if that works?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 9, 2025 2:21 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] <[@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Harms based exclusion

Thanks [REDACTED] Anytime after 3:45 works for me.

[REDACTED]

On Wed, 9 Jul 2025 at 14:03, [REDACTED] <[@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED] agree - I don't think we'd want a broad-brush approach across the whole Research stream here given the type of work that we are likely to be funding.

I'm free from 2pm tomorrow, except from 3:15 to 3:45. If that works for you both I'll send over a Teams link.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 July 2025 13:54  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Harms based exclusion

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Thanks [REDACTED] v happy to jump on a call to discuss. Me and [REDACTED] talked through this too - from my perspective, UKRI's position vs the Commission's in respect of research commissioning is quite different, particularly on the framing around industry and also the purpose of research, which is much narrower for the GC. But a harm-based exclusion is a helpful mechanism to provide further reassurances around the independence of levy-funded research but keen to think through what's appropriate here.

[REDACTED]

On Wed, 9 Jul 2025 at 12:56, [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

I'd be happy to jump on a call about this if [REDACTED] is free as well?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 July 2025 10:06  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Harms based exclusion

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Hi all,

As part of the calls that we've launched we're working on some additional wording that provides the basis for excluding companies from receiving funding from the research programme if their core business is associated with harm. The proposed paragraph is copied below. The question we had was around how we define those companies. Obviously "licence holders" is a easily identifiable group, whereas under the paragraph below we could be open to challenge from companies that we might exclude. We therefore need a robust process for excluding companies and dealing with any appeals. Do DCMS or GC have any existing mechanisms or suggestions by which we could conduct this?

There's also a question of framing. At present it's written as specific to the UKRI activity under the levy. We're happy to keep it as this, but if we wanted to expand this to cover the whole Research Strand we can discuss that, do let us know.

Some fairly rapid feedback would be appreciated as we've had some pressure from some external groups that we're aiming to respond to promptly. Happy to jump on a quick call if that helps.

Best wishes



Under the Research Programme on Gambling UKRI does not permit engagement with industries whose core business can be associated with harm to public health or societal wellbeing, in line with our ethical standards and harm-based exclusion principles. Exceptions may be made for time-limited, purpose-specific interactions deemed essential to achieving legitimate and high-quality research objectives (for example, access to proprietary datasets or materials), provided that:

- there is no direct funding or co-authorship from the excluded entity;
- the interaction is subject to robust ethical review and declared transparently;
- appropriate safeguards are in place to prevent undue influence, reputational risk, or conflicts of interest;
- and the public benefit of the research demonstrably outweighs the risks of engagement.

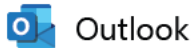
Such exceptions must be approved in advance through UKRI's due diligence and governance mechanisms. Applicants should consider UKRI's policies and guidance on [Preventing Harm in Research](#) when preparing applications to this call.

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]




Outlook

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## UKRI Gambling Research Programme Webinar: Centre and Spokes Confirmation

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**From** [REDACTED]  
**Date** Tue 6/24/2025 6:21 PM  
**To** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gamblingcommission.gov.uk>

 1 attachment (3 KB)  
invite.ics;

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 Webinar banner

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for registering for "UKRI Gambling Research Programme Webinar: Centre and Spokes".

Date Time: Jul 24, 2025 11:00 AM London

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

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Description: Following the launch of two UKRI funding calls – the Gambling Harms Research Coordination Centre (GHRCC) and the Gambling Harms Research and Innovation Partnerships (GHRIPs) – this webinar is to clarify the purpose and processes of the calls and answer any questions that you may have ahead of applying for either opportunity.

Description:

- Introduction to the webinar
- Brief overview of the wider Gambling Levy programme
- Overview of UKRI Research Programme on Gambling

- Overview of GHRCC and GHRIPs funding opportunities
- Q&A: Questions submitted in advance
- Q&A: Live questions from webinar chat

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or +44 203 481 5237 or +44 203 481 5240 or +44 203 901 7895

Webinar ID: 955 7466 0394

International numbers available: <https://ukri.zoom.us/j/adxJ3E74GJ>

Or an H.323/SIP room system:

H.323:

144.195.19.161 (US West)

206.247.11.121 (US East)

115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)

115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)

159.124.15.191 (Amsterdam Netherlands)

159.124.47.249 (Germany)

159.124.104.213 (Australia Sydney)

159.124.74.212 (Australia Melbourne)

159.124.168.213 (Canada Toronto)

159.124.196.25 (Canada Vancouver)

Meeting ID: 955 7466 0394

SIP: 95574660394@zoomcsrc.com

You can [cancel](#) your registration at any time.