

## Freedom of Information Request DFC/2024-0240 about whether a gambling levy will be introduced

Under FOI could you please confirm

What data you are gathering to inform your decision whether to introduce a gambling levy on operators?

Could you also confirm how long this data gathering exercise will take and how many DFC officials are involved in the data gathering?

Finally could you please confirm if there was a commitment when the previous gambling legislation was updated to introduce a code of practice and a gambling levy?

## Information Disclosed

Thank you for your request for information of 22 October in relation to gambling. I have listed your queries below along with the Department's response.

### ***'What data you are gathering to inform your decision whether to introduce a gambling levy on operators?'***

The main data the Department is gathering to help inform any future decision is:

- gambling business turnover in Northern Ireland;
- revenue from betting and gaming duty in Northern Ireland;
- the number of people employed in the industry in Northern Ireland;
- the number of amusement permits and related gaming machines in Northern Ireland; and
- the number of licensed bingo clubs, bookmaking offices and bookmakers in Northern Ireland

The data listed above is published annually and the latest available information may be accessed via the link below:

[Northern Ireland Gambling Licencing and Industry Data 2023](#)

In addition to this, the Department is gathering supporting data on:

- gambling prevalence and participation amongst people aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland; and
- the experience of gambling by young people aged 11-16 in Northern Ireland.

This supporting data is also published and available via the link below:

[Social policy statistics | Department for Communities](#)

***‘Could you also confirm how long this data gathering exercise will take and how many DFC officials are involved in the data gathering?’***

Data gathering is an on-going activity for the Department. Northern Ireland gambling industry and licensing data is collected on an annual basis. Gambling prevalence data amongst those aged 16+ is gathered every six years. The Department recently commissioned a new gambling prevalence survey amongst those aged 16+ with related analysis expected to complete in 2025. Children and young people’s data is collected every three years. It is expected that the next exercise will commence in 2025 with results most likely to become available in 2026. One Departmental official and one Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency statistician outposted to the Department are currently involved in data gathering.

***‘Finally, could you please confirm if there was a commitment when the previous gambling legislation was updated to introduce a code of practice and a gambling levy?’***

The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (‘the 2022 Act’) included powers to allow the Department to make regulations in relation to a gambling levy and to issue gambling codes of practice. The Department holds no record of a commitment being made to introduce the levy at the time this legislation was enacted. Preparations were, however, under way at the time to introduce a code of practice subject to the requirements of Article 17(3) of the 2022 Act. This work has culminated in the completion of an initial Code which the Department is currently consulting on. A link to this consultation is provided for your information below:

[Consultation on Article 180A of The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1985: Initial Gambling Code of Practice | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultation-on-article-180a-of-the-betting-gaming-lotteries-and-amusements-act-2022)

You should note that the above consultation runs until 24 December 2024. Should you wish to submit views on any aspect of this initial Code you may do so by sending your comments to: [gamblingcop@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:gamblingcop@communities-ni.gov.uk)