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Dear Bookmaker,

You must apply for your Gambling Commission licence/s now

It is important that you pass this letter to whomever in your company deals with these matters.

The law is changing and you will need new licences should you want to continue operating after September of this year. It is important to understand that your current bookmaker's permit becomes invalid after September.

Every bookmaking company will need a Gambling Commission **Operating Licence**. Some bookmakers will also need key staff to hold **Personal Licences** (you need to phone the Commission to discuss your circumstances and they will advise). **Existing operators who submit a valid operating licence application by 27 April will be able to continue to operate from 1 September.** The forms are long and complicated. You need to get working on them now.

Please also be aware that responsibility for premises licensing is shifting from Magistrates' Courts to Local Authorities (Licensing Boards in Scotland). You will need to apply for new **Premises Licences** from 21 May onwards. We will send you another reminder of this closer to the event.

As for now, contact the Commission and discuss with them which licences you will need and get them to send you the necessary forms. You can look on the Commission's website <http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/> and click on 'Applying for a licence' link. You can call the Commission's enquiry line on **0121 230 6666**. Or you can send an e-mail to enquiries@gamblingcommission.gov.uk.

(If you are an ABB member you should already have received the forms from us. More advice will follow in the coming ABB Newsletter. Please let us know if you have not received the forms and we will put these in the post to you directly.)

Please do not put this off for another day. Call the Commission now about Operating and Personal Licences.

Yours faithfully

Russ Phillips