



The Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers Limited

Association of
Racecourse Bookmakers

National Association
of Bookmakers

Rails Bookmakers
Association



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2020-03-17 14:34:33 (GMT)

442030040952 From: Anna Wolff

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Tel: 020 3642 2754 Email: frb@ranelaghuk.com

By email: gburgin@gamblingcommission.gov.uk

Mr Graham Burgin
Gambling Commission

17th March 2020

Dear Graham

I am writing to you following our conversation earlier today about the on-course bookmakers' licence renewals.

As you are aware, in light of the Government's advice, several key racing fixtures have been cancelled, and the uncertainty about when bookmakers will be able to go back to 'businesses as normal' makes it impossible for us to plan for the next year. It is our great hope that our members will be able to weather this storm, but as the economy slows there will undoubtedly be some casualties. Working with you, we would like to ensure that this number is as low as possible.

In these unprecedented times, I believe the responsibility falls to us find a suitable and equitable solution to how bookmakers should calculate which 'tier' of the licence fee they fall into. As it is impracticable for us to calculate how many meetings we will be attending, we suggest that when on-course bookmakers need to renew their licence this year, it is paid at the lowest level to the Gambling Commission. Once the full racing calendar is then restored, we will then be able to calculate if this is the correct amount or if bookmakers need to upgrade their licence to the middle or upper tier.

This suggestion ensures that the Gambling Commission is in receipt of some monies from the on-course industry and gives our members a little head room in the current uncertainty.

In light of the above, I wonder if now would be an appropriate time to review and conclude the cases of those bookmakers who fined as a result of actions at Ascot last year.

I would be delighted to discuss this with you further so that all parties feel they are treated equally and support each other through this emergency.

Yours sincerely

Robin Grossmith
Director, Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers

The FRB has received an initial response from the Gambling Commission who will consider our proposal and following internal meetings they will respond shortly.

The Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers Limited. P.O. Box 42, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 5YT
www.FRB.org.uk ~ Email: Secretary@FRB.org.uk ~ Tel/Fax: 01625 422884

Directors: P. Crisp, R Grossmith & S Walmsley ~ Secretary: Simon Walmsley ~ Registered Number 05314466