

Údarás Rialála
Cearrbhachais
na hÉireann

Gambling
Regulatory
Authority
of Ireland

Legal and Corporate Assessment Guide

The Role of the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland (GRAI)

We are Ireland's new regulator for gambling, gaming, betting, and certain lottery activities.

Our role is to make sure that gambling is well regulated and fair, that standards are in place and monitored, and that protections are there for those who are most vulnerable, particularly children.

As Regulator, we will be working to prevent gambling from being a source or support to crime, putting certain limits on advertising and inducements, and raising greater awareness of gambling harms.

We look forward to building a high standard of protection for consumers and to ensuring the integrity and fairness of gambling operations in Ireland.

Legal Basis

The legal and corporate assessment is required under the [Gambling Regulation Act 2024](#) (The Act).

It is an assessment which:

- ▶ Ensures the accuracy of the information and documentation submitted by the proposed licensee under Section 96 (Information and documentation to accompany application for gambling licence) and Section 97 (Information and documentation to accompany application: applications, licences, permits or certificates under relevant Acts) of the Act which relates to legal and corporate matters; and
- ▶ Determines if the proposed licensee is fit and proper to hold the gambling licence.

Purpose of this Guidance

This Guidance is to assist applicants in understanding the documents that fall under the legal and corporate assessment and how it will be reviewed and assessed.

This Guidance applies to all applicants for gambling licences. Most of the information required is mandatory under the Act. It is however written with our initial cohort of betting operators in mind, and there may be some amendments for subsequent phases of licensing.

What Information Falls Under the Legal and Corporate Assessment

The following information is received and reviewed. Please note that the detail required will be tailored, depending on the size of the business involved and the type of entity.

- ▶ Corporate Details: Business Name, Trading Name, Address, Foundational Documents, Constitutions
- ▶ Details of any Previous Gambling Licence in Ireland
- ▶ Details of any Overseas Gambling Licences
- ▶ Details of licences in Ireland related to the control of credit (pawnbrokers, high-cost credit, credit intermediary, mortgage intermediary, etc.)
- ▶ Details of any Ongoing Legal Disputes relating to the conduct of gambling activities
- ▶ Details of any Convictions or Pending Proceedings relating to relevant offences¹
- ▶ Police Certificates if resident outside of Ireland or having lived outside of Ireland for over 6 months as an adult

¹ Relevant Offences are set out in Schedule 1 of the Act and contained in the appendix to this document.

Assessment of the Information Provided

The bulk of the assessment is internal to the GRAI and our regulatory partners. The GRAI may request further information from the applicant, and this must be provided in good time².

The GRAI will verify the documents received. We will use online tools and repositories to verify information. This includes checking documents filed with the Companies Registration Office (CRO) or non-Irish equivalents. We will also examine any adverse media or sanctions information to ensure that the proposed licensee is a “fit and proper person to hold a gambling licence”.

The legal and corporate assessment is one part of a multi-pillar review process. Any internal recommendations from this process will feed into the overall decision to grant a licence.

Consultation with Other Bodies

The GRAI has the power under Section 105 of the Act to consult with regulatory partners to ensure the accuracy of information received and to ensure the proposed licensee and all beneficial owners and relevant officers are fit and proper persons.

Under this power, the GRAI will consult with the following bodies:

- ▶ An Garda Síochána
- ▶ The Revenue Commissioners
- ▶ Overseas Gambling Regulators³

This is not an exhaustive list. The GRAI may request information from any person who we consider relevant to the application.

Contact

For any questions or further assistance, please contact:

Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland Ballaugh House, 73-79 Mount Street Lwr., Dublin 2
Website: www.grai.ie

Disclaimer

These guidelines are not and do not purport to be a legal interpretation of the Gambling Regulation Act 2024 or any Regulations made under that Act. Having regard to the potential legal and operational implications for your organisation, we would suggest that you seek independent legal advice on this matter. Independent legal advisors will be best placed to provide definitive legal guidance that is tailored to your organisation and to ensure compliance with same. These guidelines may be updated from time to time, and the most recent version will be available on the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland's website at www.grai.ie

² Failure to provide accurate information may result in delays and could cause an application to be rejected.

³ Under Section 106 the GRAI may enter into data sharing agreements with regulators outside the State.

Appendix I

Relevant Offences

Below is Schedule 1 of the Act which sets out relevant offences.

1. Murder or manslaughter.
2. An offence under—
(1) The Gambling Regulation Act,
(2) Section 48 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 ,
(3) Section 1 or 2 of the Punishment of Incest Act 1908 ,
(4) The Betting Act 1931,
(5) The Gaming and Lotteries Act 1956,
(6) Section 43 of the Finance Act 1975 ,
(7) The Misuse of Drugs Act 1977 ,
(8) Section 2 , 3 or 4 of the Criminal Law (Rape) (Amendment) Act 1990 ,
(9) The Criminal Damage Act 1991 ,
(10) Section 6 , 7 , 7A or 9 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 1993 ,
(11) The Non-Fatal Offences against the Person Act 1997 ,
(12) Section 1078 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997,
(13) Section 3 , 4 , 4A, 5 , 5A or 6 of Child Trafficking and Pornography Act 1998 ,
(14) The Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) Act 2001 ,
(15) Section 2 , 3 , 3A or 4 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2006 ,
(16) Section 65 of the Consumer Protection Act 2007 ,
(17) Section 4 , 5 or 6 of the Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 ,
(18) The Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010,
(19) Section 2 , 3 or 4 of the Criminal Justice (Female Genital Mutilation) Act 2012 ,
(20) Sections 286, 389, 406, 876, 877 or 878 of the Companies Act 2014 or under that Act by a person while acting as a director (within the meaning of section 2(1) of that Act),
(21) Section 3 , 4 , 5 , 6 , 7 , 8 , 21 , 22 or 45 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 ,
(22) Section 39 of the Domestic Violence Act 2018 ,
(23) The Criminal Justice (Corruption Offences) Act 2018 ,
(24) Section 2 , 3 or 4 of the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020 ,
(25) The Counterfeiting Act 2021 ,
(26) Any enactment where the offence involves dishonesty,
(27) Any enactment where the offence relates to excise duty on betting,
(28) An offence under the law of a place (other than the State)—
(a) Consisting of an act or omission, that, if committed in the State, would constitute the offence of murder or manslaughter or an offence referred to in any of <i>subparagraphs (1) to (27)</i> , or
(b) Relating to the conduct of gambling activities.