

Údarás Rialála  
Cearrbhachais  
na hÉireann

Gambling  
Regulatory  
Authority  
of Ireland

# GRAI Premises Assessments: Guidance for Applicants for In-Person Gambling Licences

# Guidance for applicants for in-person gambling licences

## 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.

## The Purpose of this Guidance

The purpose of this guidance is to assist applicants to prepare the documentation needed to apply for an in-person gambling licence under the Gambling Regulation Act 2024.

It sets out:

- ▶ The difference between a relevant premises and a non-relevant premises
- ▶ The information and documentation needed where it is proposed to provide a gambling activity from a premises
- ▶ The additional information and documentation needed where it is proposed to permit children on the premises
- ▶ The additional information and documentation needed where it is proposed to provide an automated teller machine ("ATM") on the premises
- ▶ What we will look at when we are deciding whether to issue an in-person gambling licence.

## Accuracy and Completeness

Applicants must make sure that all information submitted to the GRAI in a licensing application is accurate. Submitting complete, accurate and high quality documentation will avoid potential delays in the assessment of applications.

It should be noted that submitting false or misleading information to the GRAI is a criminal offence.

## Scope of this Guidance

This guidance is intended to support applicants for betting licences in the initial licensing phase. It will be updated when the GRAI begins to accept applications for gaming and lottery licences.

This guidance does not apply to applications for a gambling licence to be made by Rásaíocht Con Éireann or Horse Racing Ireland, or a company or subsidiary of Horse Racing Ireland. Such applications will have procedural differences, and separate guidance will be published by the GRAI in due course.

## In Person Gambling

You will require an in-person gambling licence where you intend to provide a relevant gambling activity from one or more premises in Ireland where a person attends at the premises to engage in the gambling activity.

The GRAI will not be issuing hybrid gambling licences (i.e. one licence for both in-person and remote gambling, for either betting, gaming or lottery) until a later phase. Until then, a separate in-person gambling licence and a separate remote gambling licence will be required where it is intended to provide a relevant gambling activity both in-person and by remote means.

## Difference between a relevant premises and a non-relevant premises

A relevant premises is:

- ▶ A greyhound race track under the Greyhound Industry Act 1958
- ▶ An authorised coursing ground under the Greyhound Industry Act 1958
- ▶ An authorised racecourse under the Irish Horseracing Industry Act 1994
- ▶ A place at which a point-to-point steeplechase meeting is being held under the Irish Horseracing Industry Act 1994

**If the premises you are seeking to operate from is not covered in the above list, then it is a non-relevant premises.**

# Information needed where it is proposed to provide a gambling activity from a premises

## Relevant premises

If you are applying for an in-person licence to provide gambling activities at one or more relevant premises, when you log on to the GRAI's application portal, you will be asked to select and confirm the relevant premises from a pre-populated list of greyhound race tracks, coursing grounds, racecourses or places at which a point-to-point steeplechase meeting is being held.

You will not be asked to provide any further details about the premises, because "relevant premises" are covered by other legislation.

## Non-Relevant Premises

If you are applying for an in-person licence to provide gambling activities at one or more premises that is not a relevant premises, the GRAI's application portal will ask you to upload a number of documents in relation to each of the premises.

Applicants may need to engage suitably qualified third parties (for example a solicitor or engineer) to assist them in obtaining the documentation required.

- 1. Maps or plans of the premises.** This should include a street map that identifies and shows the clear location of the premises. A map or plans of the premises should also be included. You can obtain these from an engineer or the planning department in the local authority responsible for the area where the premises is located. Planning permission maps will be deemed acceptable, provided the layout of the premises remains unchanged since planning permission was granted.
- 2. Evidence of Ownership/Occupation.** Evidence of ownership or occupation might include deeds, lease agreements, or other documentary evidence. For example, a folio file plan can be obtained from Land Direct ([www.landdirect.ie](http://www.landdirect.ie)). It is important that the documentation clearly shows that the proposed licensee owns, or occupies the premises. If you have any queries in relation to obtaining this, please consult with your solicitor.
- 3. Certificate of Compliance with Planning Permission and Building Regulations.** An engineer will be able to assist with this requirement.

- 4. Fire Safety Certificate.** This can be obtained from the fire department within the local authority responsible for the area where the premises is located.
- 5. Insurance Details.** This should include details of the insurer(s) of the premises, the type(s) of insurance in place (e.g. third party liability), and the level (value) of insurance in place in respect of the premises and licensee. Copies of the insurance policies in place should be uploaded. These can be obtained from your insurer, or broker.
- 6. Confirmations in relation to the Betting Act 1931.** This includes the following:
  - Whether a certificate of suitability of premises was refused under the Betting Act 1931 in respect of the premises and if so, the reasons given for such refusal
  - Whether a court ever issued a direction under the Betting Act 1931 that the premises be removed from the register of bookmaking offices (within the meaning of that Act) and if so, the reasons given for such removal
  - Whether the proposed licensee or, a relevant officer or beneficial owner of a proposed licensee, was convicted of an offence in relation to the premises while it was registered in the register of bookmaking offices under the Betting Act 1931

## Further information

Following consideration of the information provided, the GRAI may request further additional details about the premises:

- 7. Additional Information.** An engineer will be able to assist with gathering the following details, if requested by the GRAI:
  - The size and layout of the premises, including all entry and exit points
  - The lighting provided or to be provided in the premises
  - The size and location of the proposed area in the premises where gambling activities are to be conducted and the position of equipment, including games, machines, or tables, to be used for gambling in the premises
  - Security measures in place including closed circuit television (CCTV) systems for both internal and external security
  - Non-gambling areas and features to separate and distinguish such areas from areas where gambling activities will be conducted
  - The size and location of external space, signs, and lighting.

## Information and documentation needed where it is proposed to permit children on the premises

A key focus of the Gambling Regulation Act is the protection of children from gambling harm. Proposed licensees can apply for specific permission from the GRAI to allow children on a premises. If this permission is not in place, it is an offence to allow children on the premises.

Regardless of the permission to allow children on premises, it is a criminal offence under the Gambling Regulation Act for a licensee to permit a child to participate in a relevant gambling activity.

### Relevant premises

If you are applying for an in-person licence to provide gambling activities at one or more relevant premises, the GRAI's application portal will not ask you to provide any details in relation to permitting children on the premises.

The operator of a relevant premises is responsible for ensuring that any requirements to permit children on the relevant premises are met, as applicable. You should continue to adhere to the rules and regulations governing activities which have been put in place by the operators of relevant premises.

### Non-Relevant Premises

If you are applying for an in-person licence to provide gambling activities at one or more premises that is a non-relevant premises, and you propose to permit children on the premises, you will be asked to submit the below information.

1. A statement of the reasons why children should be permitted on the premises
2. Details of all non-gambling activities that will be provided on the premises.

## Information and documentation needed where it is proposed to provide an automated teller machine (ATM) on the premises

### Relevant premises

If you are applying for an in-person licence to provide gambling activities at one or more relevant premises, the GRAI's application portal will not ask you to provide any details in relation to providing an ATM (or ATM's) on the premises.

### Non-relevant premises

If you propose to provide ATM(s) on non-relevant premises, you will be asked to submit the following:

1. The number of ATMs (if any) already available on the premises
2. The number of ATMs sought to be provided
3. The proximity of the nearest ATM outside the premises
4. The details of all non-gambling activities that will be provided on the premises
5. Maps or plans identifying the location of any currently available ATMs (if any)
6. Maps or plans of the ATMs sought to be provided on the premises.

It is an offence under Section 178 of the Gambling Regulation Act to have an ATM at a non-relevant premises without permission.

## Assessments and determinations that will be undertaken by the GRAI

Following the submission of your application, the GRAI decide whether the premises is suitable for use for the proposed gambling activity. The assessment will be based on the following:

1. The information and documentation submitted as part of your application
2. If the premises communicates (is connected) internally with a non-gambling premises
3. The existence of other licensed in-person gambling premises nearby
4. The proximity of the premises to schools
5. The outcome of a physical assessment of the premises to be carried out by the GRAI
6. The outcome of consultations to be carried out by the GRAI with the local authority and the fire authority for the area in which the premises is located.

If the GRAI decides that a premises is suitable for use for the gambling activity proposed, the GRAI will then move on to make an assessment to determine whether the premises is suitable to permit children and / or to provide an ATM, where applied for.

The outcome of these assessments and determinations will be communicated to you in writing following the conclusion of the overall assessment of the licence application.

The GRAI may impose conditions on the licence which must be adhered to by licensees

Licensees must adhere to any general regulations relating to the operation of premises which may be put in place by the GRAI.

To ensure compliance, licensees should keep up to date with all publications by the GRAI, which will be available at [www.grai.ie](http://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.

We recommend that you seek independent legal advice that is tailored to your organisation to ensure your compliance with the Gambling Regulation Act 2024.

These guidelines will be updated from time to time. The most recent version will be available on the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland's website at [www.grai.ie](http://www.grai.ie).

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