

Údarás Rialála
Cearrbhachais
na hÉireann

Gambling
Regulatory
Authority
of Ireland

Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland

Licensing Application Guidelines



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1 Introduction

As provided for under the [Gambling Regulation Act 2024](#), Údarás Rialála Cearrbhachais na hÉireann or the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland (the “GRAI”) was established on 5th March 2025 for the purposes of licensing and regulating gambling providers in Ireland. This document is intended to guide applicants seeking a gambling licence under the new and interim licensing arrangements. Further information will be provided by the GRAI in due course.

2 Licensing and Regulation

Under the Gambling Regulation Act 2024, providers of gambling activities operating in Ireland or providing gambling products / gambling related services to consumers in Ireland will require a gambling licence granted by the GRAI. The initial focus is on opening for certain Business-to-Consumer licence applications. Applications for Business-to-Business gambling licences and licences for charitable and philanthropic purposes will be accepted at a later stage. Please refer to the [GRAI website](#) for details of those who require a licence and the phased opening for gambling licence applications.

3 Timelines

We intend to accept online applications for both in-person and remote Business-to-Consumer Betting licences later this year. In the interim, existing and prospective gambling operators are encouraged to apply for and renew licensing under existing arrangements with the [Revenue Commissioners](#)¹, under the Betting Act 1931 and the Gaming and Lotteries Act 1956. Lottery licence and permit applications will continue to be assessed by the District Courts and An Garda Síochána respectively until new licensing arrangements are in place.

4 Exemptions

There are certain types of lotteries which will be exempt from licensing requirements. Please visit the [GRAI website](#) for details of the criteria which must be satisfied for exemption.

¹ Revenue Commissioners will continue issuing betting licences in 2025, to facilitate the smooth transition of licensing regimes. However, these licences will only be valid for a one-year term.

5 Application Process Overview

Steps to Apply

STEP 1

Publish Notice of Intention



STEP 2

Document Preparation



STEP 3

Submission



STEP 4

Review



STEP 5

Assessment of Suitability of Premises



STEP 6

Decision



STEP 7

Post-licence approval



1. **Publish Notice of Intention:** Publish your Notice of Intention to apply for a gambling licence at least 28 days before submitting your application. Provide the GRAI with a copy of the Notice of Intention (including proof of publication). A dedicated mailing address will be supplied for this purpose when applicable, along with additional guidance on publication of the Notice of Intention.
2. **Document Preparation:** Ensure you have all necessary documentation ready for submission (see section 6 below for guidance on type of information and documentation required for applications). All submitted documents will be treated with appropriate care and diligence.
3. **Submission:** Complete the application process online, ensuring all information is accurate and truthful. Those seeking a licence are required to make the application fee payment at time of application submission. Application fees will be set on a tiered basis, commensurate with the applicant's turnover (Appendix 1) in the preceding year of operation (or projected turnover in first year of trading for newly established operators). All payments are non-refundable.
4. **Review:** We will review licence applications and perform a risk-based assessment of the applicant's suitability to provide gambling activities. Processing times may vary depending on complexity of the applicant's business model. Additional information may be requested during this period for assessment purposes. We may also need to request or exchange information with other regulatory bodies and authorities as part of our due diligence checks on the suitability of the applicant, and its Officers and Owners.

5. **Assessment of Suitability of Premises:** If you are applying for an on-site licence, we will arrange for an assessment of your premises. This will involve a physical attendance (by a representative of the GRAI) at the premises, to confirm that the premises is suitable to provide a gambling activity. As part of this step, we will require supporting documentation from the applicant for the premises, this will include maps of the premises, Planning Permission documentation, Opinion/Certificates of Compliance with Building Regulations, Planning and Fire Safety, etc.
6. **Decision:** We will assess the documentation provided and consider all relevant information before determining the suitability of the applicant for licensing. Applicants will be notified in writing on the decision to grant or refuse to grant a licence.
7. **Post-licence approval:** Licensees should make us aware of any material changes or matters of concern. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Changes in ownership/control
 - Changes in the financial circumstances of licensee, which may also necessitate the submission of a variation of licence application if likely to exceed the application fee category limit of its licence.
 - The licensee, a relevant officer, a beneficial owner is convicted of a relevant offence (please refer to Appendix I for glossary of terms).

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Section-by-section Guide to completing an Application

Section I – Business Registration

This section of the process requires applicants to demonstrate they are of sound financial standing and adhere to strong governance practices. These licensing principles must continue to be satisfied for the duration for which the licence is in force. Failure to satisfy any requirement can lead to the revocation or suspension of the gambling licence.

You must provide the following information and supporting documentation (where appropriate):

► Business Information

- Trading name,
- Registered business address,
- Tax clearance information.

► Corporate Documentation

- Certificate of Incorporation,
- Constitution documents,
- Shareholders Register.



- ▶ Relevant Policies and Procedures
 - Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Terrorism Financing
 - Know Your Customer,
 - Responsible Gambling,
 - Risk Management,
 - Whistleblower Policy,
 - Business Continuity Plans.
- ▶ Financial Information
 - Financial Statements,
 - Bank Statements,
 - Loan agreements,
 - Business Plan with Financial Projections.
- ▶ Details of any other gambling, or non-gambling, licences held or previously held by the applicant, either in Ireland or jurisdictions outside the State;
- ▶ Details of the applicant's beneficial owners and relevant officers;
- ▶ Details of any convictions, criminal proceedings or regulatory action currently initiated (and not yet concluded) or previously taken against the applicant, its relevant officers or beneficial owners, for relevant offences.

It is important that the information provided is accurate and all questions must be answered.

Section 1b – Account Officer Registration

As outlined above, if you are making this application on behalf of a corporate body, details of all Beneficial Owners and Relevant Officers associated with the body must be provided.

The listed Officers and Owners will each receive an email asking them to complete an application designed specifically to obtain relevant information, such as:

- ▶ Proof of identity and address;
- ▶ Details of any gambling, or certain non-gambling, licences held or previously held, either in Ireland or jurisdictions outside the State;
- ▶ Details of any criminal convictions for a relevant offence, proceedings or sanctions against the individual;
- ▶ Tax clearance information.

Section 2 – Licence Application

In this section, you are required to confirm what licence type you are applying for.

- ▶ An in-person betting licence authorises the licensee to provide betting activities from one or more premises in the State, or, in the case of pool betting, for an event, a series of events or a class of events.
- ▶ A remote betting licence authorises the licensee to provide betting activities by remote means, and in the case of pool betting, by remote means for an event, a series of events or a class of events.
- ▶ A remote betting intermediary licence authorises the licensee to provide a facility that enables individuals engage in betting with other individuals, other than the intermediary, by remote means.

We will open for applications for Gaming licences and Lottery licences in due course.

Applicants must complete this section of the application process for each licence they wish to obtain. Depending on the licence type selection, you may be required to provide the following information:

- ▶ In-person betting channel(s) (i.e. on course, off course, or both);
- ▶ Event details (for pool betting);
- ▶ Details of premises locations (including premises maps, floor plans, deeds or lease arrangements, whether children will be permitted or ATMs will be provided on premises);
- ▶ Technical and software information (for remote gambling);
- ▶ Customer terms and conditions.

The full application fee must be paid alongside submission of a licence application.



Contact Us webform: www.grai.ie/contact-us

Website: www.grai.ie

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Contact Information

For any questions or further assistance, please contact:

Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland
Ballaugh House, 73-79 Mount Street Lwr., Dublin 2

Contact Us webform: www.grai.ie/contact-us

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.

Appendix I

Glossary of Terms

- ▶ A ‘relevant officer’, as defined in the Gambling Regulation Act 2024, means:
 - a) in relation to a body corporate—
 - i. a person who exercises control (within the meaning of section 11 or 432 of the Act of 1997) in relation to the body,
 - ii. a director, manager, secretary or other officer of the body,
 - iii. a member of the board (including the chairperson) of the body,
 - iv. the chief executive officer, managing director or any other person acting in such capacity (by whatever named called) of the body,
 - v. a person who purports to act in a capacity referred to in any of the subparagraphs (ii) to (iv),
 - and
 - b) in relation to a body corporate not established in the State, a person who—
 - i. holds an office or position equivalent to any office or position referred to in subparagraphs (i) to (iv) of paragraph (a), or
 - ii. purports to act in a capacity of a person who holds such an office or position.
- ▶ A ‘beneficial owner’ has the meaning given to it by Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 20152 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist financing, amending Regulation (EU) No. 648/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Directive 2006/70/EC.
- ▶ A ‘relevant offence’ means an offence set out in Schedule I of the Gambling Regulation Act 2024.
- ▶ As defined in the Act, “turnover” means—
 - a) in the case of a licensee of a Business to Business gambling licence, the gross profit on the sale or supply of relevant gambling products or relevant gambling related services,
 - b) in the case of a licensee of a remote betting intermediary licence, the total amount paid in charges to the licensee for providing the facility that enables a person to engage in betting, and
 - c) in the case of any other licensee, the licensee’s total income from relevant gambling activities less the total amount paid out in winnings for those activities; “winnings” means the money or money’s worth paid out to a person who wins at betting, wins a game or wins in a lottery, as the case may be.

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