

## Update from Anne Marie Caulfield, CEO

**The Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland (GRAI) marked a significant milestone on Monday 9th February as we opened Phase 1 of our licensing regime to accept applications in respect of betting licences.**

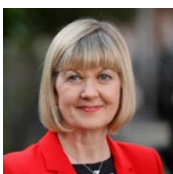
Phase 1 ensures that only reputable operators become licensed in Ireland and, as a result, helps safeguard the public from gambling harm. We would like to extend our thanks to Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan TD and his officials for their support in progressing the necessary orders to allow us to open for licensing.

The licensing system is a comprehensive and robust process, and we encourage all operators to engage as early as possible to ensure that their application can be processed in a timely manner and to reach out to us for assistance if needed. **Applications for betting licences should be submitted by no later than 10th April 2026.**

In tandem with our phased licensing regime, our continued focus is on developing our compliance and enforcement functions, and a further update is provided later in this newsletter.

The GRAI were also pleased to partner with the Health Service Executive (HSE) Addiction Services in developing guidance for parents and caregivers on how to spot the signs of problem gambling, how to talk to their children about gambling, and importantly, what to do if parents think their child is gambling. This practical advice can be found on our website [here](#). The necessity for such advice was confirmed by findings from the recently published ESRI research, which was commissioned by the GRAI and found that problem gambling is far more likely among people exposed to gambling as children. Indeed, the majority of the sample used had engaged in at least some form of gambling when under 18 years old, which reinforces the necessity to protect children and others who are vulnerable to gambling harm.

We look forward to continuing to build mutually beneficial partnerships and appreciate your interest in the updates below.



**Anne Marie Caulfield**  
Chief Executive Officer  
of the Gambling  
Regulatory Authority  
of Ireland

## Message from the Chair on the 1st Anniversary of the GRAI

The 5th of March 2026 marked the first anniversary of the establishment of the GRAI. Formed under the Gambling Regulation Act 2024, which heralded a new era in the regulation of Ireland's gambling sector, we have set about building a new regulatory framework at a pace.

Paul Quinn, Chairperson of the Authority: *"The GRAI has made significant progress in the year since establishment by putting in place the necessary foundations for effective regulation. We are particularly pleased to have opened for betting licences this February and are in the process of assessing the first applications. We plan to progressively licence different gambling products this year and next and to continue to build out the associated licensing, compliance, enforcement and digital functions in a timely way. We look forward to working with the Minister in securing the necessary resources so that we can regulate the gambling sector effectively, protect consumers, and support public confidence in the integrity of the regulatory framework."*

## Compliance and Complaints Planning

**Establishing a comprehensive, robust compliance regime to systematically monitor licensee adherence to their legal obligations in the Act is a central mandate for the GRAI.**

The first few months of 2026 have been a busy period for the Compliance and Complaints Team as they prepare to stand up the GRAI's compliance and complaints function when licences are issued, starting in July of this year. The aim is to make the reporting process for licensees for their various compliance requirements as user-friendly as possible and are working with a third-party supplier to build this technical system, which will be launched ahead of licences being issued.

The case management system for complaints is also progressing well, which will allow the public to raise complaints where they feel a contravention of one of the [obligations](#) in the Act has occurred.

## Social Impact Fund Progress

Progress towards the implementation of the Social Impact Fund continues in collaboration with Pobal. Further workshops have recently been held with service providers and those with a lived experience of gambling addiction as part of our continued engagement with stakeholders.

The workshops focussed on the design specification for the first calls for funding. The valuable information gathered is currently under review and we will continue to share updates as developments progress.

# GRAI Opens for Betting Licence Applications

The Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland (GRAI) has formally assumed responsibility for the licensing and regulation of betting activities. This function is no longer administered by the Revenue Commissioners.

From 9 February 2026, the GRAI began accepting applications for:

- ▶ In-person betting licences
- ▶ Remote betting licences
- ▶ Remote betting intermediary licences

Operators should be aware that Section 67 of the Gambling Regulation Act 2024 prohibits the provision of betting activities without a valid licence. Providing betting services without a licence will constitute an offence under the Act.

## Important Timelines for Remote Operators

Given the statutory 28-day Notice of Intent requirement (Section 95 of the Gambling Regulation Act 2024), together with the level of information required and the documentary checks involved, GRAI has written to all existing Remote Betting Operators encouraging them to submit their **applications by 10th April to allow sufficient time for processing.**

Submitting outside this timeline may result in a licence not being issued before the expiry of current licences. Prospective applicants are encouraged to begin the Business Registration part of their application during the 28-day notice period, to avoid potential delays with the processing of their application.

Operators should be aware that Section 67 of the Gambling Regulation Act 2024 prohibits the provision of betting activities without a valid licence. Providing betting services without a licence will constitute an offence under the Act.

Timely submission is therefore essential to ensure continuity of operations and regulatory compliance.

### Notice of Intent Requirements

The GRAI has published Guidance outlining the procedure under Section 95. Applicants are also requested to email a copy of their published Notice of Intent to the GRAI to facilitate updating of the Authority's Notice of Intent Register.

### Legal and Corporate Guidance

As part of our engagement to assist operators on their licensing journey, the GRAI has also published a document titled "Legal and Corporate Guidance". This document 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 is available on our website.

### Further Information

Detailed application guidance, statutory requirements, and a query submission facility are available at: [www.grai.ie](http://www.grai.ie)

Operators are strongly encouraged to review the published Guidance and commence their application process without delay to avoid disruption to licensed activities.

## Enforcement Update

Some of the most significant new criminal offences in Irish gambling law are now live. Substantial criminal penalties apply to those who operate outside the new regulatory framework; for example, unlicensed betting now carries a potential penalty of up to 8 years' imprisonment. The legislation introduces over thirty new criminal offences, as well as a suite of obligations for applicants and licensees. There is a new offence of cheating, which occurs when a person interferes with or manipulates:

- ▶ The process by which a gambling activity is provided,
- ▶ A gambling product or gambling related service being used for a gambling activity,
- ▶ An event to which a gambling activity relates, or
- ▶ The outcome of a gambling activity.

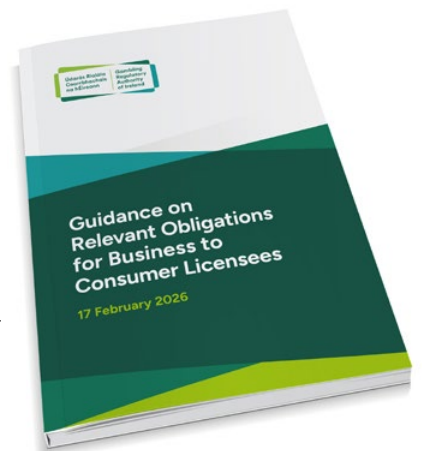
The offence closes a gap by obviating the need to prove (as in fraud) that a particular person was deceived. It is complemented by licensee obligations in relation to reporting suspicious gambling activity.

## Updated Guidance Now Available

The GRAI has, and continues to, publish documents which provide practical guidance to operators on the application of the conditions and obligations set out in the Act.

You can find the most current *Guidance on Relevant Obligations* [here](#).

This guidance will continue to be updated as further sections and any relevant regulations are commenced.



# Recruitment Update

We continue to make strong progress in building our team as the GRAI develops its regulatory and operational functions.

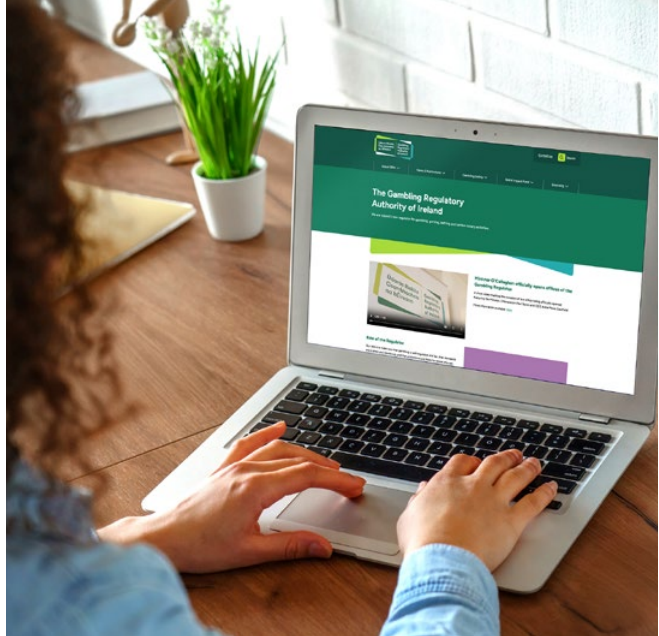
Our three most recent vacancies have now closed for applications, and we would like to thank everyone who expressed an interest in joining the Authority. We are currently preparing for the next stage of the recruitment process and look forward to engaging with candidates in the coming weeks.

We also have a number of exciting opportunities currently open for applications:

- ▶ **Director of Consumer Protection, Education & Awareness, Research and Communications**
- ▶ **Administrative Officer Panel**

Details on these roles, including job descriptions and application information, are available on our website and across our recruitment channels.

Further upcoming positions will be available and we advise readers to register with Public Jobs in order to receive alerts and information on how to apply.



Get to know more about GRAI. Follow us on:

 LinkedIn: [Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland](#)

 X: @GambRegIRL

 Bluesky: @gamregirl.bsky.social

 Instagram: @gamblingauthorityie

 Web: [Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland](#)

## Contact Details

For any general queries or queries regarding licensing, the best way to contact us is to complete our webform available [here](#).

[www.grai.ie](http://www.grai.ie)

