



Bermuda Casino Gaming Commission

PATI Information Statement

Name of Public Authority: Bermuda Casino Gaming Commission (BCGC)

Introduction:

The Public Access to Information Act 2010 (PATI) grants the Bermuda public the right to obtain access to information held by public authorities to the greatest extent possible, subject to exceptions that are in the public interest or for the protection of the rights of others. It is designed to increase transparency with respect to activities of public authorities and their decision making process. It is further designed to hold public authorities to a high standard of accountability.

By law, each public authority is required to publish its own information statement which describes its organization, functions, policies and procedures. The Act also requires the information statement to contain the name of the contact person to whom requests are to be directed. The information contained in this statement is provided to fulfill those PATI obligations and provide a general overview for the public of the resources available within the Bermuda Casino Gaming Commission ("the Commission") which they are entitled to access.

The purpose of this Information Statement is to outline the information held by the Commission which will be readily available to the public under the PATI Act 2010. The Information Statement is divided into several different categories to assist the public in accessing the information that they are seeking:

Section A deals with the structure, organization and legislation of the Commission.

Section B describes the functions, powers and duties of the Commission and its obligations under the Public Access to Information Act 2010.

Section C covers the services performed by the Commission.

Section D outlines the records and documents held by the Commission.

Section E lists any administrative manuals used by the Commission.

Section F describes any other decision-making documents held by Commission.

Section G provides the name and contact details of the Information Officer for the Commission.

Section H contains any other relevant information held by the Commission.

Section I explains where copies of the Information Statement may be obtained.

Information that may be withheld:

In maintaining this information statement, our aim is to be as open as possible. However, there may be limited circumstances where information will be withheld. The provisions of Part 14 of the Casino Gaming Act 2014 ("the Act") which deals with the preservation of secrecy, disclosure of information and cooperation between the Commission and foreign regulatory casino bodies, restricts the ability to the Commission to disclose information it has received outside of the parameters contained within the Act and schedule 2 thereof. This means that an array of records and information that are received, gathered, stored, analyzed and disseminated under the Act are presumptively exempt from disclosure.

Sections 37 of PATI recognizes and gives effect to any statutory non-disclosure provision contained in any statute including the Casino Gaming Act 2014 which specifically excludes PATI disclosure for certain documents.

The Commission will generally not publish:

- information in draft form;
- information that is not held by the Commission, or which has been disposed of in accordance with a legally authorized retention/disposal schedule;

- information that is not readily available – for example: information that is contained in files, that have been placed in archive storage, or is otherwise difficult to access;
- information which is covered by the preservation the secrecy provisions in section 189 of the Casino Gaming Act 2014 or any other provision in the gaming legislation;
- information which is exempt under the PATI, or otherwise protected from disclosure. For example: Section 4 (1) (a) as read with subsection (2) thereof provides, subject to records relating to the general administration the Act does not apply to 'records relating to the exercise of judicial or quasi-judicial functions by any court, tribunal or other body or person'.

Whenever information is withheld, the Commission will inform the requester of this fact and explain why that information cannot be released. Even where information is withheld, it may be possible to provide a redacted copy, with the exempt matter edited out.

If a requester wishes to lodge a complaint regarding any information which has been withheld, please submit your concerns for review in accordance with PART 5 of PATI.

Section A: Structure, Organization and Legislation [s5(1)(a)]

Structure:

As per section 7 of the Act, the Commission is made up of five members—

- (a) a Chairman who shall be a barrister with not fewer than five years post-qualification experience;
- (b) four other members including—
 - (i) one person who shall be a public accountant registered or deemed to be registered under the Chartered Professional Accountants of Bermuda Act 1973;

- (ii) one person who shall have a background in law enforcement or anti-money laundering or anti-terrorist financing or compliance issues;
- (iii) one person who shall have a background in the tourism or hospitality industry.

Schedule 1 to the Act also has effect with respect to the Commission, its members and its proceedings.

Commissioners appointed under section 7 of the Act (and Schedule 1):

Alan Dunch – Chairman

Garry Madeiros – Deputy Chairman

Judith Hall-Bean

Dennis Tucker

Derek Ramm

Employees of the Commission appointed under section 12 of the Act:

Richard Schuetz – Executive Director

Deborah Blakeney – General Counsel

Julie Grant – Chief Financial Officer

Teresa Wilson – Corporate Operations Manager

Chelsea Todd – Junior Office Administrator

Legislation relating to the Commission:

- Casino Gaming Act 2014

- Casino Gaming (Designated Sites) Regulations 2016
- Various other Rules and Regulations which are currently being drafted will be added to this information statement once they have been made, and published on the Commission's website which is currently under construction.

Section B: 1) Functions, powers, duties of the Authority [s5(1)(b)]

Part 1 of the Act provides for the Commission to receive and consider applications for the Minister to make an Order designating a site as an appropriate site for a Casino.

Part 2, Chapter 2, of the Act sets out the objects, functions, duties and powers of the Commission.

Functions and duties of the Commission - Section 9 of the Act:

- to do all things it is authorised or required to do under the Act;
- to receive and consider applications for a licence to operate a casino;
- to investigate the suitability of applicants for licences and issue a licence where appropriate;
- to supervise, regulate and inspect the operations of casinos, the persons responsible for such operations and the conduct of gaming within the casinos;
- to ensure that the handling, collection, disbursement and counting of money within casino premises is supervised;
- to detect offences committed within casino premises or in relation to casinos;
- to receive and investigate complaints from casino patrons concerning the conduct of gaming in the casino;
- to check casino records;
- to inspect, test and approve gaming equipment and chips used in casinos;
- to prepare and give to the Minister reports concerning the operation of casinos and the conduct of gaming;
- to supervise casino operations and casino operators for the purpose of detecting or preventing money laundering, the financing of terrorism, the financing of the

proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to be alert to the risk that they may be used in connection with financial crime and to the consequent need to have appropriate arrangements in place to monitor and control its incidence.

- to manage exchange control matters and regulate transactions;
- to make decisions regarding disciplinary action with respect to casino operators and special employees.

Powers of Commission – Section 10 of the Act

The Commission may, as may be necessary, carry on such activities as appear to the Commission to be advantageous, necessary or expedient in connection with its objects, the performance of its functions and the discharge of its duties under this Act, the Regulations or any other law, including:

- conduct investigations for the grant of licenses or compliance with licence conditions;
- require any person to furnish returns and information;
- issue or approve codes of practice relating to casino operations;
- publish educational materials or carry out research or other educational activities relating to casino gaming, or to support (financially or otherwise) the carrying out by others of such activities or the provision by others of information or advice;
- enter into such contracts as may be necessary or expedient for the purpose of performing its functions or discharging its duties;
- acquire and hold property, for the provision or future provision of business premises for the Commission;
- make provision for pensions, allowances or other benefits for employees or former employees of the Commission;
- make provision for the specialized training of any employee of the Commission and, in that connection, to offer scholarships to intending trainees or otherwise pay for the cost of the training;

- furnish the Minister with information with respect to its property and activities as the Minister may, from time to time, require.

Section B: 2) Obligations under PATI Act [s5(1)(b)]

- To provide an **information statement** for the public and to promulgate it [s5],
- To provide **other information** to the public so that the public needs only to have minimum resort to the use of PATI to obtain information [s6]. This includes:
 - General information, e.g. activities of the Authority
 - Log of all information requests and their outcome
 - Quarterly expenditure (upon request) [s6(5)]
 - Contracts valued at \$50,000 or more.
- To **respond to information requests** in a timely manner [s12-16]
- To **track information requests**, and provide this data to the Information Commissioner
- To respond to **requests from the Information Commissioner** [s9]
- To **amend personal information** held by the Authority that it is wrong or misleading following a written request by the person to whom the information relates [s19]
- To conduct an **internal review** if formally requested [part 5]
- To give evidence for **review by the Information Commissioner** [part 6, 47(4)], or for **judicial review** [s49], if required
- To provide an **annual written report** to the Information Commissioner of the status of information requests [s58 (3)].
- To **do anything else as required** under PATI and subsequent Regulations [s59, 60], including:
 - **Fees** for requests for information
 - **Management and maintenance of records**
 - **Procedures** for administering PATI
- To **train staff and make arrangements** so as to facilitate compliance with PATI [s61]

- To designate one of its officers to be the person to whom requests are directed [s62]

Section C: Services [s5(1)c]

The Casino Gaming Act 2014 was enacted to meet the challenge of enhancing investment, tourism and employment in Bermuda through the introduction of up to three (3) Integrated Resort Casinos. In order to ensure the orderly introduction and operation of these facilities, the Commission is empowered to satisfy the following five goals in the execution of its duties:

- The owners, vendors, managers, employees, and sources of finance should be free from any inappropriate past or present associations and behaviours, and uphold high ethical standards;
- The casinos should possess sound operational and financial controls;
- The games offered should be fair, honest, and operate with a high level of security and integrity;
- All fees, taxes, and related payments, should be appropriately accounted for and paid; and
- Controls should be in place to protect the vulnerable.

In ensuring the achievement of the public policy goals of the Act in ways that are smart, economical, and efficient, Bermuda's regulatory model is based on providing the following services:

- To offer an approach that is appropriate to the social, cultural, and economic realities of Bermuda.
- To offer a human resource policy of being staffed by a limited number of high performance individuals comprising the regulatory leadership team.
- To work in a collaborative fashion with other global regulatory entities to achieve efficiencies and avoid duplicative actions.

- To utilize the expertise and services of third-parties for –
 - Forensic accounting for suitability of applicants;
 - Criminal & civil suitability investigations;
 - Compliance auditing assistance; and
 - Technological standards and testing.
- To mandate the establishment of Operator Compliance Committee whereby –
 - The operator performs many tasks traditionally performed by the regulatory entity, with the Commission staff performing audits to ensure compliance; and
 - The Operator Compliance Committee is required to report all compliance failures to the Commission staff.
- To be less reliant on prescriptive regulations by:
 - Moving to risk-based methodologies in regulatory construction.
 - Establishing stated goals and standards.
 - Enhancing dependence on user defined internal controls.
- To utilize an evidence-based best practices approach in developing a program to provide protections to the vulnerable, working in concert with existing treatment providers.

Section D: Records and documents held [s5(1)(d)]

The Commission commenced operations on October 1st 2015 at its premises located on the 1st Floor “Crawford House” 23 Church Street, Hamilton with 2 team members and as at April 2016 comprised a total of 5 team members.

Due to the embryonic stage of the organization a minimal number of documents and records have been produced.

The documents currently in our possession are, or relate to-

- Cabinet Memoranda and Annexes,
- communications with the Minister and Ministry;

- draft amendments to the Casino Gaming Act 2014,
- draft regulations to be made under the Act,
- finance and accounting,
- general correspondence,
- contracts for services,
- conventions and conferences,
- general administration,
- leave forms, pension and medical documents and forms
- furniture and equipment
- minutes of Commission meetings,
- rental of premises and acquisition of technology,
- recruitment of staff (information relating to staff remuneration will be made public on our website),
- draft employee handbook,
- draft travel and payroll policies,
- advertisement of the commencement of the Designated Site Order process;
- applications submitted to the Minister for a Designated Site Order

With time, and after more Rules and Regulations are made to regulate the gaming industry, more documents will be made available for inclusion in this Statement and on our website (currently under construction) as and when they become available for publication.

Section E: Administration (all public access) manuals [s5(1)]

The Commission commenced operations on October 1st 2015 in its premises located on the 1st Floor "Crawford House" 23 Church Street Hamilton with 2 employees. As at April 2016, there are 5 team members.

Due to the early stage of the organization a minimal number of manuals are currently being developed, which include-

Every public authority shall update its information statement at least once a year, and make it available for inspection by the public at reasonable times by [s5(1-5), PATI Act]:

Date Information Statement was updated: June 2016

A Notice has been published in the Gazette indicating the places where this Information Statement is available for the public which include the following locations:

- Commission's office: 1st Floor "Crawford House"
23 Church Street Hamilton HM11
- The Bermuda National Library;
- The Bermuda Archives;
- Website for Commission (which is currently under construction); and
- The Information Commissioner's Office.

Signed: 

Print Name and Title

RICHARD SCHUETZ Executive Director

Dated: June 15, 2016

- Draft employee handbook
- Draft financial instructions
- Draft travel and subsistence policy
- Draft payroll policy

There are no administrative manuals completed for public access at this time. There are draft manuals in progress which will be published upon completion and will be made available for public access on the Commission's website and included in any update to this Statement.

Section F: Decision-making documents [s5(1)(f)]

The Commission commenced operations on October 1st 2015 and the regulatory and procedural policies have not been completed. There are therefore no decision making procedures or manuals in place or available for public access. These will be published on the website, now under construction, as soon as possible.

Section G: The Information officer [s5(1)(g)]

The Information Officer for the Bermuda Casino Gaming Commission is Ms. Deborah Blakeney, General Counsel, who is located at the Commission Offices at Crawford House, 23 Church Street, 1st Floor, Hamilton HM11. Her contact information is as follows:

Office Telephone: 400-2102

Email: d.blakeney@bcgc.bm

Section H: Any Other Information [s5(1)(h)]

N/A

Section I: Information Statement: Copies and Updates [s5(2,3,4,5)]