

## **NIOCBA Briefing Paper for the Committee for Communities - Betting , Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) Bill**

The Northern Ireland On-Course Bookmakers Association (NIOCBA) is the representative Body that supports approximately 60 on-course bookmakers who operate at the two licensed NI racetracks, Downpatrick and Down Royal at their 22 annual race meetings.

An NI on - course bookmaker working these 22 annual NI race meetings pays an annual licence to Government and in addition pays fees of £1249 annually to the licensed racetracks.

As NIOCBA pays fees for the right to operate on 22days per annum which are similar to the fees paid by high street bookmakers offices which are open 312 days per annum and betting exchange clients who can act as on-line bookmakers and who are unlicensed and pay absolutely nothing for their right to operate as a bookmaker, the reader will immediately acknowledge how skewed and antiquated the current NI legislation is and how it acts unfairly against NI on -course bookmaking. It cries out for remedy.

NIOCBA feels strongly that an On-Course Bookmaking Licence should cover four years business rather than the annual renewal that exists presently.

NIOCBA understands at this stage of the review of NI gambling legislation the Minister understandably wants to target problem gambling. NIOCBA strongly argues that the 22 days per annum that its members operate in no way contribute to problem gambling and should not be impacted by any changes being introduced going forward.

NIOCBA looks forward to speaking to the NI Assembly Committee in due course.>

Gerry Donnelly  
Chairman  
NIOCBA  
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