



**Press Release**

15<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

**New law will see regulation of gambling leap from the ‘Dark Ages’ into the ‘online age’.**

The Gaming & Leisure Association of Ireland (GLAI) today welcomed the announcement by Minister for Justice Alan Shatter TD confirming the Cabinet’s decision to introduce a new regulatory regime for gambling within the State.

Speaking today, David Hickson, Director and Chairman of GLAI said: “The Cabinet’s decision to take gambling out of the dark ages into the online age is a positive step forward”.

He added: “Proper regulation of the gaming sector is good news. It will help prevent criminal involvement and bring Ireland in line with best international practice. We will now examine the Heads of Bill as published and look forward to engaging with the Minister and his officials on the adoption of a workable bill”.

A properly regulated gaming sector will lead to additional job creation over time, in both the land based and online sectors. Currently some 400-500 people are employed in the land based industry.

He noted “that a regulated casino sector will further enhance the attraction of Ireland as a tourist destination, as many tourists enjoy the benefit of a regulated casino offering in their home countries and like to enjoy the excitement of a flutter while on holidays in a safe and reputable environment”.

“We are hopeful that the legislation will contain a system of checks and balances designed to protect the weak and vulnerable which is not currently enshrined in legislation,” he said.

Hickson concurs with the Minister’s view that ‘resort style casinos’ are not appropriate in the context of the Irish market. “While there is undoubtedly a demand for casino entertainment, it would not be sufficient to sustain a large scale casino” he concluded.

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