EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
Single Market Enforcement
Notification of Regulatory Barriers

Número de notificación : 2026/0662/IE (Ireland)

GAMBLING REGULATION ACT 2024 (PRESCRIBED GAMES) REGULATIONS

Fecha de recepción : 19/11/2026
Final del periodo de statu quo : 22/02/2027

Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2026) 3393

Directive (EU) 2015/1535

Notification: 2026/0662/IE

Notification of a draft text from a Member State

Notification – Notification – Notifzierung – Нотификация – Oznámení – Notifikation – Γνωστοποίηση – Notificación – Teavitamine – Ilmoitus – Obavijest – Bejelentés – Notifica – Pranešimas – Paziņojums – Notifika – Kennisgeving – Zawiadomienie – Notificação – Notificare – Oznámenie – Obvestilo – Anmälan – Fógra a thabhairt

Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délai - Kein Fristbeginn - Не се предвижда период на прекъсване - Nezahajuje prodlení - Fristerne indledes ikke - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - No abre el plazo - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Ne otvara razdoblje kašnjenja - Nem nyitja meg a késéseket - Non fa decorrere la mora - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Atlikšanas laikposms nesākas - Ma jiftaħx il-perijodi ta’ dewmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Não inicia o prazo - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nezačína oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Inleder ingen frist - Ní osclaíonn sé na moilleanna

MSG: 20263393.EN

1. Notification Message: MSG 001 IND 2026 0662 IE EN 19-11-2026 IE NOTIF

2. Country: Ireland

3A. Department Responsible: National Standards Authority of Ireland, 1 Swift Square, Northwood, Santry, Dublin 9, D09 A0E4

3B. Originating Department: Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland, Ballaugh House, 73 Mount St Lower, Dublin 2, D02 PX37

4. Products/Services 2026/0662/IE - H10 - Games of chance

5. Title: GAMBLING REGULATION ACT 2024 (PRESCRIBED GAMES) REGULATIONS

6. Product/Service Details: Business to Consumer Gambling as defined by the Gambling Regulation Act 2024

7. Notification Under Another EU Act:

8. Executive Summary: These Regulations prescribe the games which, subject to specific authorisation in a gaming licence, a licensee may provide pursuant to a gaming licence issued under the Act of 2024.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds: These regulations are required under Section 86 of the Gambling Regulation Act 2024. These regulations are made to enable the Authority to licence gaming in Ireland.

9a. Suitability of the Measure to Attain the Pursued Objective: The games currently offered in Ireland and the EU were used to compile this list of categories for prescribed games. There was substantial industry research to ensure that this list of games reflects the market and provides a framework to licence gaming in Ireland.
The Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland (GRAI) undertook a public consultation process to inform the development of regulations and guidance supporting implementation of the Gambling Regulation Act 2024 (the "Act").
Section 86 provides for regulations prescribing the games that may be provided under a gaming licence, with each licence specifying which of the prescribed games the licensee is authorised to provide. The objective of the consultation was to obtain stakeholder views on the practical operation of the proposed framework, identify implementation challenges and gather feedback that could assist in refining regulations and supporting guidance prior to implementation.
The public consultation yielded 123 responses from a diverse spectrum of industry stakeholders, including operators, suppliers, consultants, representative bodies, and members of the public. While respondents broadly endorsed the introduction of a prescribed-games framework and recognised the necessity of a structured list of relevant games, feedback focused primarily on ensuring long-term framework agility. The submissions emphasised the need for clarity, flexibility, and adaptability to future product development and stakeholders explicitly cautioned that the proposed framework relied too heavily on rigid technological definitions, which could inadvertently result in categories that are both overly restrictive and ambiguously defined.
The GRAI has also undertaken significant research on the nature of gambling in Ireland. The ESRI has published research on problem gambling and the gambling behaviour of adults in Ireland in 2023 and 2025 respectively. This research found a higher level of problem gambling than previously research and underlines the prevalence of gaming as a form of gambling in Ireland. This underlines the public interest in creating a licensed system for gaming in Ireland and fulfilling the statutory duty of the GRAI to licence gambling.
This list is necessary to licence gaming and fulfil this. The list has the goal of being lean and technologically neutral.

9b. Necessity: In terms of cross border trade, we are satisfied that this list encompasses existing games offered throughout the EU and as such there should be minimal impact on the internal market.
Section 86 of the Gambling Regulation Act requires this list of prescribed games. In order to issue gaming licences, the Authority must prescribe the relevant games and therefore no alternative is available outside of listing these games to allow the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland to licence gaming. Gaming in Ireland has historically been licensed in a patchwork manner and online gaming was outside the scope of licensing prior to the Gambling Regulation Act. There is significant public interest in licensing gaming and the Authority fulfilling its stator mandate to licence gambling in Ireland.

9c. Excessive Burden in Relation to the Pursued Objective: These regulations seek to list existing games offered across Ireland and the EU into categories of relevant games as required by the Gambling Regulation Act 2024. Subject to obtaining a licence, a gaming operator in Ireland will be able to offer these games to the public under the conditions of the Gambling Regulation Act 2024.
There is no excessive burden created by listing these relevant games.
The protection of the public interest is significant here. As per research undertaken by the ESRI in 2023 the prevalence of problem gambling is much higher than previous research would suggest.

10. References of the Basic Texts: No Basic Text exists

11. Invocation of Urgency Procedure: No

12. Grounds for the Urgency:

13. Request for Confidentiality: No

14. Is it a Fiscal Measure? No

15. Has an Impact Assessment? No

16.
TBT aspects: No

SPS aspects: No

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European Commission
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