

Online Gambling Licence - Application Process

The Isle of Man Gambling Supervision Commission (GSC) follows a structured and transparent process for issuing online gambling licences under the Online Gambling Regulation Act 2001 (OGRA). Below is a step-by-step overview of the application process.

Step 1: Determine the Appropriate Licence Type

Applicants must first identify the most appropriate licence type for their business model. The GSC offers several options:

- Full Licence
- Network Licence
- Sub-Licence
- Software Supplier Licence
- Token/Blockchain-Based Software Supplier Licence.

Each licence type has specific permissions, obligations, and associated fees. More information can be found in the Licence Types section of our website.

Step 2: Review the Eligibility Requirements

Before proceeding, applicants should carefully review the GSC's eligibility criteria. This includes understanding the requirements for local incorporation, corporate governance, operational infrastructure, and compliance obligations.

Applicants are encouraged to consult the GSC's guidance documents and checklists to ensure they meet all prerequisites.

Step 3: Prepare the Application Package

Applicants must compile a comprehensive application package. This includes a completed application form, vetting forms for all directors, shareholders, and key personnel, a detailed business plan, and financial projections (typically covering a three-year period). A checklist is available to assist the applicant gather the required information.

The appropriate application fee must also be submitted at this stage.

Step 4: Submit the Application

Once the application is complete, it should be submitted to the GSC's Inspectorate. The Inspectorate will review the documentation to ensure it is complete and accurate.

They will also begin conducting due diligence checks on the applicant, its funding and its key individuals.

Step 5: Attend Interviews (if required)

The GSC may request interviews with the Designated Official the Money Laundering Reporting Officer and if applicable, the Operations Manager.

These interviews are used to assess the applicant's understanding of the regulatory framework and to clarify any aspects of the business model or compliance approach.

Step 6: Participate in a Formal Hearing

If the application progresses successfully, the GSC will schedule a formal hearing at which, the Board Members will review the application in detail.

The applicant and its representatives may be asked to present their proposal and respond to any questions or concerns raised by the Commission.

Step 7: Receive the Decision

Following the hearing, the Board will issue a formal decision. If the application is approved, the licence will be granted, and once the licence payment is made, the applicant will then become a licence holder.

The licence holder may then proceed to establish operations and launch services, subject to any conditions imposed by the Board.

Step 8: Comply with Post-Licensing Obligations

Once licensed, operators are subject to ongoing regulatory supervision. This includes regular reporting, technical audits, AML/CFT compliance reviews, and periodic on-site inspections.

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