

## GBG The Gambling Business Group

### GBG Budget Update – March 2016

Not a huge amount to say about gambling in today's budget so here are the headlines;

Gambling – only two points mentioned;

- Gaming duty Bands revalorisation; Government will increase Gaming Duty bands in line with RPI for accounting periods starting after April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.
- Reforming the treatment of 'freeplays' in remote gaming duty. The tax treatment of freeplays in remote to fall in line with general betting duty from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017.

General business changes;

- Small Business Rate Relief being raise from £6k to £15k and for Larger Businesses from £18k to £51k, with increases linked to the lower CPI instead of the higher RPI
- Corporation Tax to be reduced to 17% by 2020
- Commercial Stamp Duty to be reformed in line with last year's residential changes, with the rates now applying in progressive layers, rather than slabs. The rates will be 0% upto £150k, 2% on the next £100k and 5% above £250k. For rent transactions above £5m, a 2% rate will apply also.
- Capital Gains Tax will be reduced at the lower band from 18 to 10% and at the higher band from 28 to 20%

Changes affecting the wet trade;

- Duty on Beer, Spirits and most Ciders frozen this year
- Duty on most Wines and higher-strength Cider will rise with the RPI inflation rate
- Publication of a new Alcohol strategy confirmed soon, with an aim to reduce burdens on alcohol businesses. Consultations to follow in 2016 on the reform of the collection of alcohol duty on the feasibility of anti-fraud measures.
- A new Sugar Tax will be levied on the **producers** of high sugar beverages, implementation delayed until 2018. Pure Fruit and Milk based products are exempted