



Reviewing Britain's Gambling

Laws

What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

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KPMG eSummit

23rd February 2021

REGULUS
PARTNERS

Our base case

The Review Objectives

- 1. Examine whether changes are needed to the system of gambling regulation in Great Britain to reflect changes to the gambling landscape since 2005, particularly due to technological advances*
- 2. Ensure there is an appropriate balance between consumer freedoms and choice on the one hand, and prevention of harm to vulnerable groups and wider communities on the other*
- 3. Make sure customers are suitably protected whenever and wherever they are gambling, and that there is an equitable approach to the regulation of the online and the land based industries.*

Our interpretation

- Legislative modernisation rather than fundamental rethink
- Consistent with the spirit of the Gambling Act 2005 – focused on the customer
- Likely to lead to more detailed, tighter online controls
- Landbased gambling legislation brought into the 21st century?

The bear case

The Public Health Agenda

“This review of the Gambling Act is long overdue and it is time to put the often spoken about “public health approach” into practice. Just as we have rightly taken steps to ramp up the regulation of other harmful products such as tobacco and junk food, we now need to do the same with gambling”.

Gambling Health Alliance



What could possibly go wrong? The Evidence



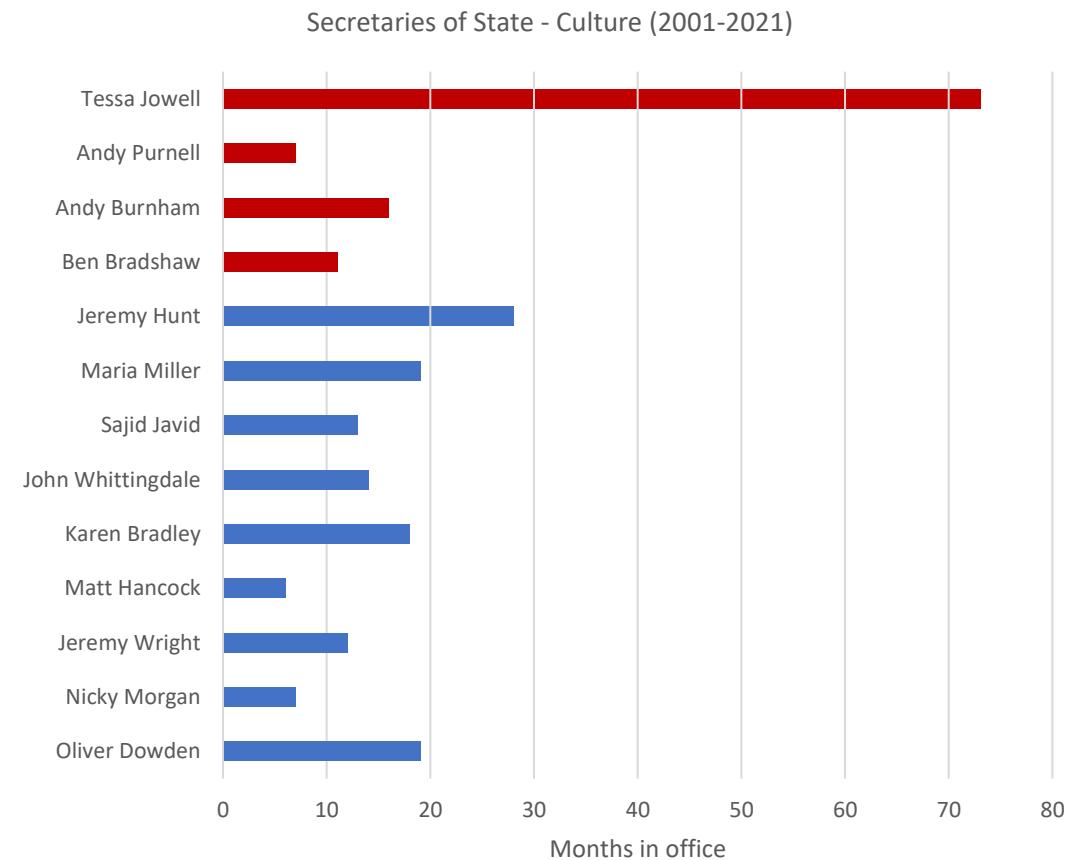
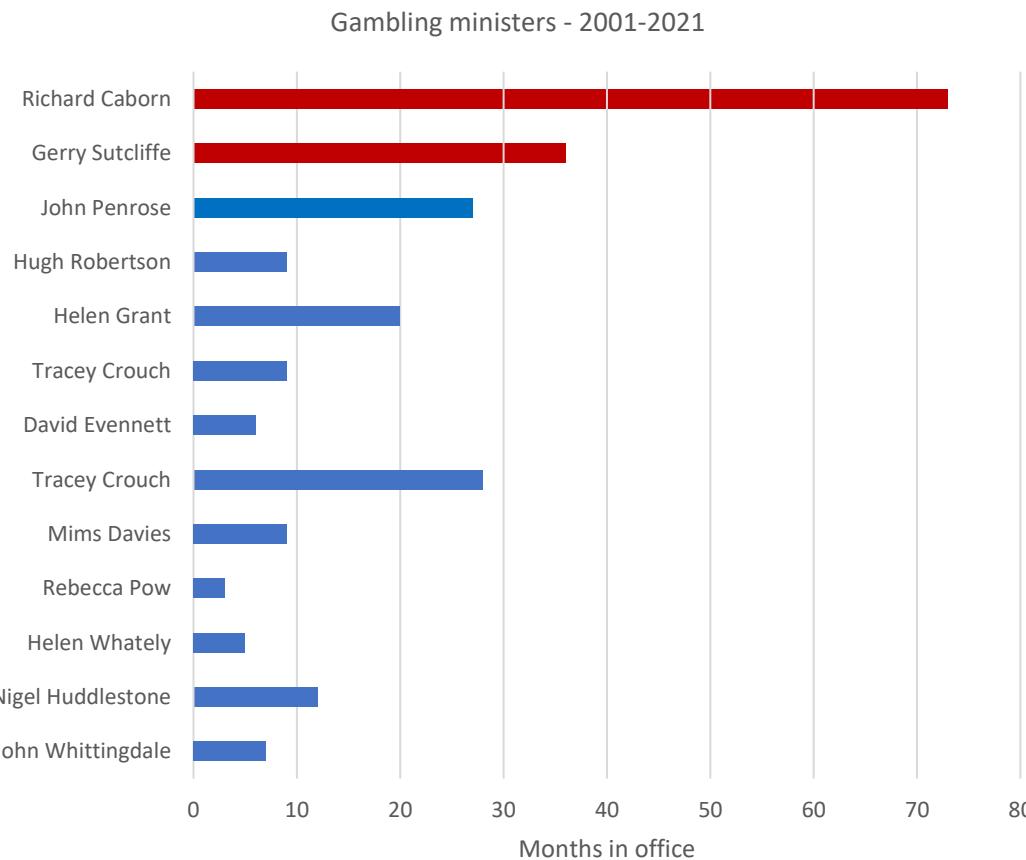
What could possibly go wrong? The Evidence

- *“More research and evidence are needed to support advocacy and action”*
Public Health England, 2020
- *“Although reviews of the evidence directly related to gambling harm are currently underway, there is already increasing evidence from other sectors that a public health approach that includes fiscal measures and reduces exposure to advertising and access to harmful commodities could reduce population level harm. The introduction of restrictions on marketing and increasing taxation¹² on the products associated with higher risks of harm have been used to reduce tobacco, alcohol, and sugar sweetened drink consumption. These examples should give policy makers confidence that similar policies for gambling would also be effective if successfully implemented.”*
Goyder et al., 2019
- *“If research findings are presented by people who clearly present themselves as advocates for significant gambling reform and who also believe that gambling is inherently bad, would not the same concerns [as pertain to deliberately pro-gambling research] arise? Could such an advocate still be trusted to undertake unbiased and objective scientific research?”*
Delfabbro & King, 2020
- *“My view on independence is that the independence of research can equally be challenged when you have researchers who are starting to get into that kind of campaigning space. We want proper independent research and there is a space around gambling and a need for researchers, campaigners and policymakers. We have had too many examples of them wearing interchangeable hats.”*
Tim Miller, Gambling Commission, 2019

What could possibly go wrong?
The Government



What could possibly go wrong? The Government



What could possibly go wrong? The Regulator



What could possibly go wrong? The Industry



What could possibly go wrong?

What to watch out for



COMING SOON

- **Public Health England** - Gambling-related Harms
- **NIHR/University of Sheffield** – Harm-prevention
- **Gambling Commission** – LCCP revisions and harm reporting (surveys)
- **DCMS** – White Paper
- **DHSC** – Addictions Strategy