

ADR Internal Statement of Compliance Annual and Quarterly Reporting

Reporting period - 1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021

Name of ADR Provider – Bacta ADR Service

Background:

Type of ADR offered (e.g. mediation, adjudication, etc)	Principally by adjudication; occasionally by mediation.
Number of employees as ADR officials	Five
How are dispute outcomes reached? (e.g. panel decision, individual mediator, etc)	Judgement of evidence provided to the ADR case handler. Where judgement is contested the case is referred to the Independent Review Panel for consideration.
If outcome is reached by panel decision, please explain who makes up the panel?	ADR Coordinator, Regulatory Advisor, Machine Technical Advisor, Legal Advisor and Social Responsibility Advisor.
How is the ADR funded?	Bacta ADR Service is funded from trade association subscriptions with no fees charged to consumers.

As a competent authority for the gambling sector we approve alternative dispute resolution (ADR) providers that wish to offer services to gambling consumers. Our role as competent authority includes making sure that ADR providers continue to meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations, alongside our role as gambling regulator to make sure that gambling is fair and open. The Gambling Commission expect ADR providers in the gambling industry to meet the requirements of the [ADR Regulations](#) and our [additional standards](#).

Internal statement of compliance

Please demonstrate how your organisation and your ADR process complies with the requirements of the ADR Regulations and the Commission's standards for ADRs in the following areas:

Statement	Response
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<p>ADR Services offered by the body Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 1. As part of your answer, explain how you ensure that stakeholders know why the scheme exists, what it does and what to expect from it (Ombudsman Association six principles of good governance, Clarity of Purpose).</p>	<p>Bacta ADR Service offers alternative dispute resolution services in respect of unresolved complaints about gambling transactions in adult gaming centres, family entertainment centres, bingo halls, pubs and clubs.</p> <p>Bacta ADR Service does not act in cross-border disputes, neither are its officials remunerated directly by a gambling operator (trader) who is a party to a dispute.</p> <p>Consumers are aware of why the service is offered, and what to expect from it, as the process and procedure is made clear in operators' policy and procedure document in respect of complaints. Complainants seeking to use bacta ADR Service are also directed to the entity's website for more comprehensive detail.</p>
<p>Access to the ADR body Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 2. As part of your answer please explain how you consider the needs of vulnerable consumers (Commission standards, p24), and comply with other legislation such as GDPR.</p>	<p>Bacta ADR Service maintains a website (updated from time to time) which provides the parties to a dispute with information regarding the alternative dispute resolution procedure operated by bacta ADR Service with detail provided to a consumer on a durable medium if requested.</p> <p>Bacta ADR Service provides consumers with the means to file a dispute with any supporting documents online or by post. In addition, bacta ADR Service enables the exchange of information between the parties via electronic means or, if a party wishes, by post;</p> <p>Bacta ADR service does not handle cases involving on-line (remote) disputes, betting disputes or cross-border disputes.</p> <p>Bacta ADR Service, on receipt of written documentation, carries out an initial assessment of the circumstances of the dispute as outlined by the complainant. The assessment is usually carried out orally over the telephone.</p> <p>Case handlers will identify complainants who are vulnerable through mental difficulties or lacking the capacity to fully comprehend ADR procedure. ADR officials have also received training from GamCare's partners on how to interact and communicate with problem and at-risk gamblers. They will signpost to GamCare if appropriate.</p> <p>Bacta ADR Service complies with GDPR legislation, in particular with the five principles under article 5</p>

<p>Expertise Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 3(a). As part of your answer, please document any training or qualifications that your ADR officials undertake, the frequency of this, and whether there are refresher sessions for officials, and any experience in dispute resolution that officials have.</p>	<p>Bacta ADR Service ensures that its officials possess a general understanding of the law and the necessary knowledge and skills in dealing with an out-of-court or judicial resolution of consumer disputes.</p> <p>Case Handlers receive initial preparation by a competent trainer. Thereafter, refresher training is carried out at three-monthly intervals or less if appropriate.</p>
<p>Independence Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 3(b), (d), (e), (g) – (h). As part of your answer, please explain how you ensure and evidence the freedom of the office holder from interference in decision making (Ombudsman Association six principles of good governance, Independence), and how you are transparent about the way you are funded (Commission standards, p18).</p>	<p>Bacta ADR Service appoints each ADR official for a term of office of sufficient duration to ensure the independence of that person’s actions and provides that no ADR official can be relieved of his or her duties without just cause.</p> <p>It remunerates its official in a way that is not linked to the outcome of the alternative dispute resolution procedure.</p> <p>By appointing more than one ADR official, bacta ADR Service ensures that a case handler, without undue delay, discloses to the entity a circumstance that may, or may be seen to affect his or her independence or impartiality; or give rise to a conflict of interest with a party to the dispute which the ADR official is asked to resolve.</p> <p>A process is in place supervised by a qualified company secretary and the ADR Controller to ensure that there is no interference in decision making.</p> <p>Bacta ADR Service is transparent as to how it is funded by trade association subscriptions with no fees charged to consumers. Details are laid out on bacta ADR Service’s website.</p>

<p>Impartiality Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 3(c), (e), (f), and section 4. As part of your answer, please explain how you ensure straightforward dealing and completeness, based on honesty, selflessness and objectivity and ensuring high standards of probity and propriety (Ombudsman Association six principles of good governance, Integrity). Please also explain how your conflicts of interest procedure meets the requirements of the ADR Regulations, Schedule 3, section 4. This should include how you ensure that parties to a dispute fully understand the process where a conflict arises, and how you ensure that any ADR officials who work part-time in another capacity are not conflicted by their non-ADR duties (Commission standards p19).</p>	<p>Bacta ADR Service is satisfied that the listed officials possess a good understanding of the law and the necessary knowledge and skills relating to resolution of consumer disputes, in order to be able to conduct their functions appropriately.</p> <p>The listed officials discharge their duties without bias to either party in dispute, or their representatives, and will disclose any circumstances that may, or appear to, affect their impartiality or independence, or give rise to a conflict of interest with a party to the dispute.</p> <p>In the event of a conflict of interest arising, both parties will be notified in writing to this effect and the case will be passed to an alternative listed official for action. If the listed official cannot be replaced by another official, the listed official will refrain from conducting the ADR procedure and will, wherever possible, propose to the parties that they submit the dispute to an alternative ADR entity, which is competent to deal with it.</p> <p>Listed officials are not remunerated in a way that is linked to the outcome of the ADR procedure; with an independent accounting structure in place.</p>
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<p>Transparency</p> <p>The ADR Regulations require you to publish information on your website (ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 5), and we will check your website for this information. We also expect you to publish performance data and specific information on your methods and timescales as part of our standards. Explain how in general you ensure openness and transparency in your scheme in order that stakeholders can have confidence in the decision making and management processes of the scheme (Ombudsman Association six principles of good governance, Openness and transparency), and how all members of the scheme are seen to be accountable and responsible for their decisions and actions (Ombudsman Association six principles of good governance, Accountability).</p>	<p>Bacta ADR Service maintains a website -updated from time to time - so that the parties to a dispute have information regarding the alternative dispute resolution procedure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) postal and e-mail addresses; (b) a statement that it has been approved as an ADR entity by the Gambling Commission; (c) the type of domestic disputes it is competent to deal with, including any financial thresholds which apply; (d) the procedural rules of the alternative dispute resolution procedure operated by it and the grounds on which it can refuse to deal with a given dispute; (e) the language in which the alternative dispute resolution procedure can be conducted; (f) the principles that the service applies, and the main considerations the body takes into account, when seeking to resolve a dispute; (g) the preliminary requirements that a party to a dispute needs to have met before the alternative dispute resolution procedure can commence; (h) a statement as to whether or not a party to the dispute can withdraw from the alternative dispute resolution procedure once it has commenced; (i) the preliminary requirements, if any, that a party to a dispute needs to have met before the alternative dispute resolution procedure can commence; (j) The average length of time taken to handle an ADR case to conclusion; (k) the legal effect of the outcome of the dispute resolution process, including whether the outcome is enforceable and the penalties for non-compliance with the outcome, if any; (l) a statement as to whether or not alternative dispute resolution procedures operated by the service can be conducted by oral or written means (or both), and (m) Annual key performance indicators (KPI).
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	<p>It is of paramount importance that stakeholders are ensured that the ADR process is carried out in a transparent and open manner without prejudice to either party. Documents submitted by either party are provided to the other on a durable medium.</p> <p>Both parties to a dispute are, on conclusion of the process, invited to complete a customer satisfaction survey.</p>
<p>Effectiveness Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, section 6. As part of your answer, please explain how you ensure that the scheme achieves its outcomes efficiently and represents good value for money (Ombudsman Association six principles of good governance, Effectiveness). You should also demonstrate how you meet the decision/outcome quality standards (Commission standards, p19), and the process you have put in place for an audit/review of dispute outcomes, service standards and service quality (Commission standards, p18).</p>	<p>Bacta ADR Service is available and accessible to both complainants and operators via the bacta ADR website, also on a durable medium if requested.</p> <p>Neither party in a dispute is obliged to obtain independent advice or be represented by a third party but may do so if they require.</p> <p>ADR is available to complainants free of charge.</p> <p>Bacta ADR Service notifies both parties on receipt of relevant documentation, and on the outcome of the dispute within 90 days of receipt of the relevant documentation.</p> <p>Before reaching an outcome, we thoroughly examine all evidence presented, identifying further avenues of enquiry as necessary.</p> <p>In reaching an outcome, bacta ADR Service takes full account of the information provided as well as the interpretation of legislation and consumer protection.</p> <p>Both parties are made fully aware of the circumstances leading to the dispute, and have a fair opportunity to make their case.</p> <p>Bacta ADR Service case handlers show no bias to either party during a dispute.</p>

Fairness

Please demonstrate how you meet the requirements of the ADR Regulations Schedule 3, sections 7-10. As part of your answer, explain how you ensure that your dispute process takes account of the balance of power within a dispute, particularly around sharing evidence with parties to a dispute (Commission standards p18).

Bacta ADR Service will ensure that:

- Either party can express their point of view.
- Provide a party to a dispute with argument, evidence, documents and facts provided by the other party including statements or opinions by an expert.
- Comment from either party can be provided.

Bacta ADR Service informs parties of the following:

- A legal advisor is not required but they may seek independent advice or be represented/assisted by a third party.
- The outcome of the ADR procedure on a durable medium and the grounds on which the outcome is based.

Bacta ADR ensures that parties involved:

- Are able to withdraw from the process if they are dissatisfied with the performance or operation of the procedure.
- Are informed before the procedure commences of their right to withdraw from the process at any stage.
- Are informed before agreeing to or following the proposed solution that they have a choice whether or not to agree and that if they take part in the process it does not preclude them from seeking redress through the courts. Further that the proposed solution may be different to that determined by a court and that they are given a reasonable time to reflect on coming to a decision.

Bacta ADR Service informs gambling operators and those bound by their trade association rules that they cannot withdraw from the ADR procedure. There are distinctions between those bound to participate and those bound to accept the solution.

Bacta ADR Service takes into account customer needs when requesting or sharing information. Information is provided clearly and tailored to the consumers level of understanding. This takes into account the balance of power or the perception of balance of power within a dispute. We particularly focus around the needs of those individuals who are unfamiliar with gambling, have literacy problems or may be vulnerable through mental disorder or lacking capacity.

<p>Legality Please demonstrate how your process meets the requirements of the ADR Regulations, Schedule 3, section 11.</p>	<p>Bacta ADR Service ensures that in relation to the alternative dispute resolution being imposed on consumers where there is conflict or no conflict with existing legislation the consumer is not deprived of normal consumer protection.</p>
<p>General Please tell us about any changes you have made to the delivery of your dispute resolution process since your last report. What has been the impact of the changes? If you would like to share any additional information or comments (beyond that required by your ADR Regulations-specified annual report) then please comment below.</p>	<p>No changes made.</p>

Quarterly/Annual reports

Quarterly reporting periods end 31 January, 30 April, 31 July and 31 October

Annual reporting periods 1 October.

Please submit your reports to your nominated Licensing Account Manager within 10 working days of the end of the reporting period.

Annual report information must be displayed on your website by 1 November each year, as per the ADR Regulations.

ADR provider quarterly/ annual reporting

ADR provider	Bacta ADR Service
Reporting Period	1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021
Quarterly return only*	

*if Nil Return, then please submit your quarterly return now.

a) No of domestic & cross border disputes received	Domestic	19	
b) Numbers of each type of complaint <i>Please list the actual number of each type of complaint you received.</i>	Adult Gaming Centre (AGC) – 5 Family Entertainment Centre (FEC) – 1 Bingo - 1 Online (misdirected) – 10 Frivolous - 2		
c) Total number of disputes the provider refused to deal with <i>% share of the grounds set out in para 13 Schedule 3 of the ADR Regulations</i>	12	Consumer not contacted trader first	0%
		Dispute is frivolous/vexatious	17%

		Dispute is being/has been considered by another ADR provider/court	0%	
		Value is outside the provider's monetary thresholds	0%	
		complaint not submitted within time period	0%	
		dealing with the dispute would impair the effective operation of the body	0%	
		not the relevant gambling sector	83%	
		GC regulatory matter only (not a dispute)	0%	
		Discontinued for non-operational reasons (e.g., party withdrew)	0%	
d)	% of ADR procedures discontinued for operations reasons	0%	reasons for discontinuation if known	N/A
e)	Average time taken to resolve disputes in days	Domestic	6 Days	
		Cross Border	N/A	
f)	no of disputes completed in period		7	
g)	% completed disputes ruled in operator's favour		58%	
h)	% completed disputes ruled in favour of the consumer		42%	
i)	% completed disputes settled by the operator during the ADR process		100%	
j)	average length of time taken to receive complaint file from operator (days)		10 days	

Items (f) to (j) are part of the Commission's additional standards and not a requirement of the ADR Regulations.

For annual report only - note that all fields relating to the annual report must be displayed on your website by 1 November each year.

k)	a description of any systematic or significant problems that occur frequently and lead to disputes between consumers and traders of which the ADR entity has become aware due to its operations as an ADR entity;	Nothing of note.
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<p>l) any recommendations the ADR entity may have as to how the problems referred to in paragraph (c) could be avoided or resolved in future, in order to raise traders' standards and to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices</p>	<p>Gathering and collation of evidence could be handled in a more timely fashion once it is clear that a complaint will be escalated to ADR. The issue will be highlighted in a seminar presented to operators by bacta ADR Service in January 2022.</p>
<p>m) the rate of compliance, if known, with the outcomes of the alternative dispute resolution procedures;</p>	<p>Both parties fully compliant</p>
<p>n) the co-operation, if any, of the ADR entity within any network of ADR entities which facilitates the resolution of cross-border disputes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>