

Investigation into Donbet.com and Mystake.com and their links with British licensed software suppliers prepared by the Coalition to End Gambling Ads - June 2026

Summary findings

The Coalition to End Gambling Ads (CEGA) has found evidence that:

1. The Gambling Commission is failing to geo block Donbet.com or Mystake.com – two of the best known illegal online casinos in Great Britain – despite being made aware of their operations in 2025 and possibly before.
2. Donbet and Mystake are reportedly part of a group of unlicensed casinos owned by a company called Santeda International. Santeda International gambling websites have been connected to gambling related suicides in Britain in February 2024 and November 2025.
3. At least eighteen British licensed software providers appear to be supplying games to Donbet and Mystake – which could represent a breach of their licence conditions and a possible offence under section 41 of the Gambling Act.
4. Two of the eighteen British licensed software providers were awarded licences by the Gambling Commission after they appear to have started supplying their games to Donbet.com, one of them gaining a licence as recently as January 2026 – evidencing the Gambling Commission is failing to undertake basic due diligence on companies that apply for gambling licences.
5. Five of the licensed games suppliers that appear on Donbet and/or Mystake are members of the gambling industry ‘standards body’, the Betting and Gaming Council (BGC). The BGC has repeatedly used the threat of unlicensed casinos as an argument to avoid greater regulation of gambling and has said that its members will not supply the unlicensed sector.

Recommendations for urgent actions to protect British consumers:

1. The Gambling Commission should take immediate action to block access to the Donbet.com and Mystake.com websites and any affiliated sites in Great Britain, and it should revoke the licences of the software companies supplying them where they are in breach of their licence conditions.
2. An independent investigation of the Gambling Commission’s licencing regime should be conducted to establish:
 - i. How eighteen companies have held British gambling software licences whilst supplying or being associated with unlicensed and unlawful gambling
 - ii. How many other licensed software developers and operators are involved in or associated with unlicensed and unlawful gambling both in Britain and overseas
 - iii. Licences should be revoked where activities in the unlicensed sector are found
3. All new British gambling licence approvals should be frozen until the deficiencies in the Gambling Commission’s licencing regime are rectified.
4. Gambling Commission licence holders and BGC members should be required to confirm that their suppliers and affiliates have no relationships with unlicensed gambling.

5. The BGC should expel its members that are involved in unlawful and unlicensed gambling in Britain or overseas.
6. The BGC should be excluded from the Government's Illegal Gambling Taskforce until it can prove that its members do not take part in illegal or unlicensed gambling in Britain or overseas.

As quickly as parliamentary time allows systemic interventions against unlicensed gambling operators should be deployed. Action must include stronger regulation of the licensed gambling sector, which is responsible for normalising harmful gambling products that fuel gambling harm and increase demand for unlicensed gambling services.

About the Coalition to End Gambling Ads and this report

CEGA is a group of organisations campaigning to stop gambling being promoted. Our membership includes public health institutions, councils, charities, faith groups, credit unions, and sports clubs. We focus on policy recommendations that will have the greatest impact on reducing the harm caused by gambling advertising, and as part of that work we focus on advertising for both licensed and unlicensed operators.

We regularly report instances of gambling advertising that breach the Committee of Advertising Practice rules as well as advertising of unlawful gambling. In 2025 we reported an advert by the gambling operator Stake which resulted in Stake surrendering its right to serve the British market and subsequently saw its 'white label' partner, TGP Europe, surrender its licence, taking 15 harmful gambling brands with it.

The investigation covered in this report started because of reports of Donbet.com and Mystake.com advertising to British Consumers using the phrase 'not on Gamstop'. Gamstop is the national self-exclusion register for people who want to stop gambling online. If a casino is listed or advertised as 'not on Gamstop' it is a clear sign that the casino on offer does not have a licence to operate in Great Britain and that is targeting people who do not want to gamble anymore.

We wanted to see if Donbet and Mystake were still accessible from Great Britain, despite the Gambling Commission being aware of their unlawful operation, and whether there were any licensed software providers supplying games to them.

Report context

Donbet.com and Mystake.com are two of the best known unlicensed casinos in Britain. They were heavily cited in [an article](#) in December 2025 as part of an international network of illegal gambling websites owned by a company called Santeda International, which was raised during the inquest into the death of Ollie Long who died in February 2024.

The Gambling Commission was made aware of the websites and Santeda International at least as early as December 2025, and could have been aware of them before then following the sharing of information during the inquest into the death of Ollie Long, or through their own work on unlawful gambling.

The Gambling Commission has a statutory duty to keep gambling free from crime, and they have the capability to take action to block access to unlicensed online casinos.

Online gambling operators such as Donbet and Mystake rely on software providers to supply the games that customers play on. However it is a breach of a gambling software licence to supply games to an unlicensed operator and may constitute an [offence under Section 41 of the Gambling Act](#).

In January 2025 the Gambling Commission issued an Industry warning notice – titled '[Licensed software appearing on illegal market](#)' – in which it acknowledged the issue of games produced by British licensed gambling software providers appearing on unlicensed online gambling websites. The notice stated that providers must ensure their games do not appear on such websites and made clear that their licences could be at risk.

The Betting and Gaming Council, which refers to itself as the standards body for the gambling industry, has repeatedly used the threat of unlicensed gambling to resist calls for stronger regulations and higher taxes on the licensed gambling sector.

The BGC's CEO [has said](#) 'as a sector, we should lead the way in making certain our products are not hijacked and misused by those engaged in illegal activity' and [she has said](#) that the BGC's supplier members will not support the unlicensed sector.

In January 2026 the Department of Culture, Media and Sport [launched](#) a new Illegal Gambling Taskforce, which includes within it the BGC, despite members of the BGC having profited from unlicensed gambling both in Great Britain and overseas.

CEGA investigation findings

In May 2026 the Coalition to End Gambling Ads began an investigation into Donbet.com and Mystake.com. Immediately we found that both websites were easily accessible from Great Britain without the need for a VPN.

CEGA officers were able to access the websites using a Chrome browser with no friction. The gambling we undertook was recorded and those recordings have been offered as evidence to the Gambling Commission.

Donbet.com findings

We set up an account on Donbet.com and made a deposit using a crypto currency called Ethereum. We proceeded to gamble on a range of games that appear to be provided by British licensed software developers.

British software licence holders' games appearing on Donbet.com in May 2026

Software Provider	Games available
TaDa Gaming Limited	Multiple slot games
Playson Limited	Multiple slot games
Platipus Gaming	Multiple live casino games
Skywind Holdings	Multiple live casino games
Software Provider	Games listed but unplayable at the time of investigation
Playtech	Korean Speed Baccarat
Spinomenal (part of Panda Blue Moon)	Multiple slots
Iron Dog (part of Football 1 X 2 Ltd)	Multiple slots
Blueprint gaming	Multiple slots
Pari Play (Part of Aristocrat)	Multiple slots
Software Provider	Games available when VPN used via Thailand
Pragmatic Play	Multiple slots and live casino games
Play n Go	Multiple slots
Novomatic Gaming	Multiple slots
Hacksaw Gaming	Multiple slots

On 1st May 2026 we gambled on games provided by [TaDa Gaming Limited](#), and [Playson limited](#). On 5th May 2026 we revisited Donbet.com and gambled on live casino games provided by [Platipus Gaming](#), and [Skywind Holdings](#) – two more British licensed gambling software providers.

On 9th May 2026 we visited Donbet.com and found listed Korean Speed Baccarat live games provided by [Playtech](#), and multiple slot games provided by [Blueprint Gaming Limited](#), although the games were unavailable to be played at the time we visited. On multiple visits to Donbet.com we also saw games listed by PariPlay (part of [Aristocrat Gaming](#)), [Iron Dog](#) (part of Football 1 X 2 Ltd), and [Spinomenal](#) (part of Panda Bluemoon Ltd) listed but that were unplayable when we visited.

On 11th May 2026 we visited Donbet.com using a VPN routed through Thailand (a jurisdiction where online gambling is reported to be generally illegal), and played slot and live casino games provided by [Pragmatic Play](#). On 13th May we revisited Donbet using a VPN routed through Thailand and gambled on games by [Play N Go](#), [Hacksaw Gaming](#), and [Novomatic Gaming](#).

Mystake.com findings

We set up an account on mystake.com and made a deposit using Bitcoin. We proceeded to gamble on a range of games that appear to be provided by British licensed software developers.

British software licence holders' games appearing on Mystake.com in May 2026

Software Provider	Games playable
TaDa Gaming Limited	Multiple slots
Playson Limited	Multiple slots
Platipus Gaming	Multiple slots and live casino games
Booming Games	Multiple slots
Software Provider	Games listed but unplayable at the time of investigation
Playtech	Multiple live casino games
Pari Play (Part of Aristocrat)	Multiple slots
Tom Horn	Multiple slots
Wazdan	Multiple slots
Spinomenal (part of Panda Blue Moon)	Multiple slots
Iron Dog (part of Football 1 X 2 Ltd)	Multiple slots
Software Provider	Games playable when VPN used via Thailand
Pragmatic Play	Multiple slots and live casino games
Evolution Gaming	Multiple live casino games
Hacksaw Gaming	Multiple slots
Novomatic Gaming	At least one slot game
Spinomenal (part of Panda Blue Moon)	Multiple slots
Play n Go	Multiple slots
Software Provider	Games listed when VPN used via Thailand but unplayable
Relax gaming	Multiple slots

On 12th May we gambled on Mystake.com playing games by [TaDa Gaming Ltd](#), [Playson Ltd](#), and [Platipus Gaming](#). On 12th May we also accessed Mystake.com with a VPN switched on and with a connection routed through Thailand to see if further games became available. With the use of VPN we were able to access and gamble on games provided by [Pragmatic Play](#), [Evolution Gaming](#), [Hacksaw Gaming](#), and [Novomatic Gaming](#).

On 13th May we re-visited Mystake.com with our connection routed from the UK and gambled on a game by [Booming Games](#). Games were also listed by [Tom Horn](#), [Wazdan](#), [Spinomenal](#) (part of Panda Bluemoon Ltd), but these weren't playable when we tried to play them.

When we switched our VPN back on to route through Thailand, we were able to gamble on games by [Play N Go](#) and [Spinomenal](#). Games by [Relax gaming](#) were listed but when we tried to play one a message appeared saying 'this game cannot be played by a player from CAO'.

On multiple occasions when we visited Mystake.com we saw games listed on the website by PariPlay (part of [Aristocrat Gaming](#)), [Iron Dog](#) (part of Football 1 X 2 Ltd), and by [Playtech](#) however we were unable to play on these games both from a UK connection or when our VPN was switched on and routed through Thailand.

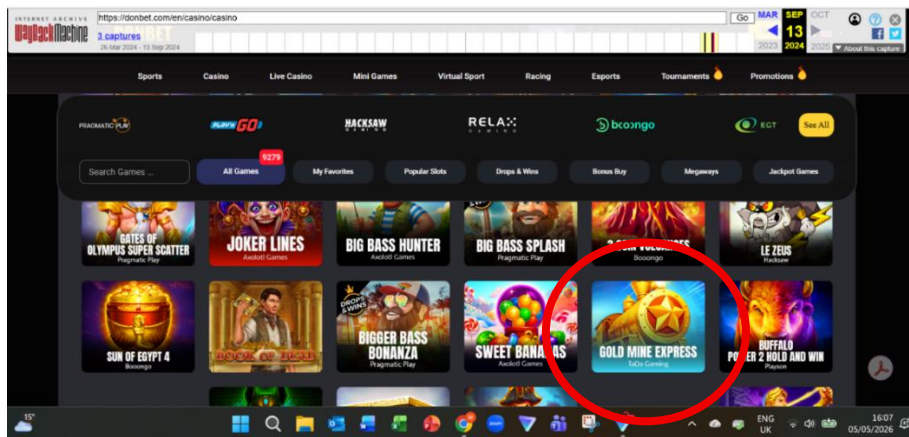
Betting and Gaming Council members

Playtech, Blueprint Gaming, Pragmatic Play, Evolution Games, and Aristocrat Gaming (the group that includes PariPlay) are [members of the Betting and Gaming Council](#) – the industry standards body.

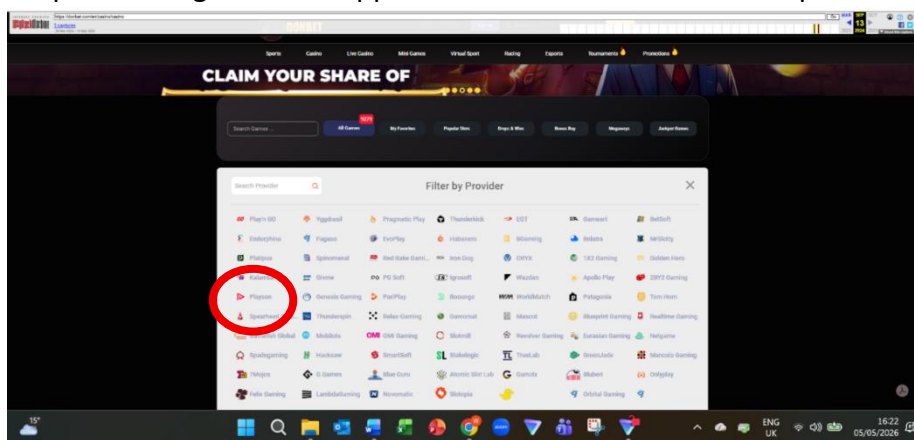
Licence approvals made to software providers apparently already supplying an unlicensed site

There is evidence that the Gambling Commission has approved software licenses despite the games of the applicants appearing on Donbet.com before the licences were granted.

TaDa Gaming Limited had its British gambling software license approved in May 2025. An internet archive service shows that TaDa was already listed as a supplier on Donbet.com before that time, going as far back as September 2024.



Platipus Gaming achieved its licence with the Gambling Commission in January 2026, despite it being listed as supplier to the Donbet website in September 2024.



Conclusion

This report focuses on the activities and relationships of just two unlicensed websites – Donbet and Mystake. Our investigation has found that the Gambling Commission has failed to geo-block the websites, but has managed to provide licences to companies that were apparently already supplying games to the illegal websites.

At least 18 British gambling software licence holders' games appear on the websites, many of which are able to be gambled on from Great Britain either with or without a VPN.

Although the games from some of the licensed companies were unable to be played on when we tried, serious questions should be put to those software providers as to why their brands are appearing on an unlawful gambling website, and what their commercial relationship is with that illegal operator.

There are many more unlicensed casinos operating online in Great Britain, and it is likely therefore that the findings of this report are the tip of the iceberg in terms of relationships between the licensed sector and the unlicensed sector.

[Evidence outwith of this report](#) has shown that the illegal market has fed off the harm caused by the licensed sector, luring in people who have tried to stop gambling by joining the online self-exclusion scheme GamStop.

A significant percentage of unlicensed gambling adverts feature the words ‘not on GamStop’ which can lead to a lucrative trade as there are now [over half a million people](#) registered with GamStop – people who have predominantly been harmed gambling with licensed operators.

It should be understood therefore that the licensed gambling sector drives demand for unlawful gambling by creating the market for it, and then supplies it with addictive content. It is a fallacy that there are two distinct gambling sectors – licensed and unlicensed – they are intertwined.

In the current conditions, if the licensed market for gambling grows, so will the unlicensed market. If people are to be protected, then both parts of the online gambling sector need to be constrained through better regulation and pro-active enforcement. Delivering the recommendations in this report would represent a start.

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