

## MannBenham eGaming & the Isle of Man

**Nestled in the Irish sea between England and Ireland, the Isle of Man, home to the world's oldest continuous parliament keeps a quiet secret. It's not its castles, its stunning beaches, glens and open spaces. Nor is it its low taxes and high quality of life.**

The Islands secret moves at light speed through the fibres that connect it to its neighbours England and Ireland and onwards and outwards around the globe. Bets are placed, monies are staked, winners and losers made in the blink of an eye. The secret is out, the Island is the home of regulated global online gambling.

Home to some of the biggest names in the business the Isle of Man is a Tier 1 licensing jurisdiction. Having been regulating gambling since the early 1960's the Island plays an experienced hand when it comes to regulation. The Island's Gambling Commission has three principles, to keep the gambling industry crime free; to protect the young and those at risk and to ensure that the services offered by licence holders are fair and that players receive their true winnings. In practice these principles are achieved through good quality regulations and a practical approachable regulator. Being able to pop into the regulator's office for a coffee and a chat at any time is invaluable and makes doing business on the Island fairly unique.

The Island has a balanced economy with e-gaming joining the likes of financial services, blockchain, manufacturing, tourism and agriculture. These sectors are supported by a strong professional services sector of lawyers, accountants and corporate service providers. There is an active job market and while good talent can be found locally it is easy for operators to bring in specialists from off Island when required.

The benefits of working on Island are not just restricted to the operator, employees benefit from a maximum personal rate of tax of 20% with an annual tax cap, affordable quality housing, free schools and hospitals. A flight to England or Ireland takes less than 30 minutes and for the more adventurous there are regular ferries serving the Island.

A key to any operation is banking and the Island is home to some of the leading banks. While online gambling is not a sector all banks serve, banking services are available on Island to operators. Using a combination of on and off-island banking and payment services operators are able to serve clients globally.

The home to the contest between Manx Telecom and Japan's DoCoMo to create the world's first 3G network, the Isle of Man continues to develop its infrastructure with state of the art data centres and enviable fibre optic cabling to multiple points in the UK and Ireland. Operators benefit from a telecoms infrastructure that has been tested and adapted to serve the biggest names in the industry. If you want low latency to the Far East, a resilient network and multiple points of presence you have it. The Island even generates its own electricity and exports the surplus down its own power cable to England.

Obtaining a licence is a fairly pain free process and hearings are held before the independent Gambling Supervision Commission. An Isle of Man online gambling licence allows the operator to conduct virtually all forms of gambling using the same licence for one annual fee. With online gambling duty starting at 1.5% and falling to as low as 0.1% of gross gaming yield the Island is an attractive location for an online gambling business.

The Island is also home to some of the world's leading gaming software companies with the likes of Microgaming, Gamesys and SBOBet rubbing shoulders with new e-sports software houses. A new software licence is available with a games register that eases the testing certificate process. With a zero rate of corporation tax and no capital gains tax the Island is an attractive tax neutral jurisdiction for the establishment of international gaming and software operations.

### **We are here for you...**

Contact us today by calling **01624 639350** or by email at **[enquiries@mannbenham.com](mailto:enquiries@mannbenham.com)** to arrange a convenient time to call you back, either by telephone or video call.



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