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The Danish Gambling Authority blocks 16 illegal gambling websites

In March 2020, the district court ruled in favour of the Danish Gambling Authority to have 16 websites blocked which offered illegal gambling. Since 2012, the Danish Gambling Authority has been successful in actions against 90 illegal gambling websites.

The Danish Gambling Authority's main task is to ensure a fair and regulated gambling market in Denmark, where players are protected against unfair and illegal gambling. Consequently, gambling operators must have a licence from the Danish Gambling Authority to provide gambling in Denmark.

In this way, it is an ongoing task for the Danish Gambling Authority's to close and block websites that are aimed at the Danish market and do not have a licence from the Danish Gambling Authority and thereby offer illegal gambling.

Most recently, the Danish Gambling Authority have brought actions before the district court to have 17 websites blocked that offered illegal gambling. One provider stopped the illegal provision before the case was conducted, and in March 2020, the district court ruled in favour of the Danish Gambling Authority in the 16 remaining cases. The cases involved illegal provision of betting, online casino and skin betting, i.e. gambling with virtual items from video games instead of money, *cf. figure 1*.

Figure 1. Illegal gambling websites blocked in March 2020



Source: the Danish Gambling Authority.

How do the Danish Gambling Authority work with illegal gambling?

The Danish Gambling Authority's primary tool to detect illegal gambling is to monitor the gambling market. The Danish Gambling Authority monitor the market by conducting searches of potentially illegal websites in cooperation with the Danish Tax Agency, among other things. In many ways, skin betting sites differ from the other sites, hence they require searches aimed specifically at this type of site. In addition, the Danish Gambling Authority regularly receive reports from citizens and businesses that are followed up on.

When the Danish Gambling Authority find a website offering illegal gambling or illegal mediation of gambling, a petition is sent to the owners of the website. The petition notifies of the

violation and they are requested to stop the illegal provision. In most cases, this is sufficient to end the violation.

If the provision of illegal gambling does not stop, the Danish Gambling Authority can have the website blocked at the Danish internet providers through the district court. Since the existing Act on Gambling entered into force in 2012, the Danish Gambling Authority has had 74 illegal websites blocked at the district court. Including the rulings from March 2020, the total number is 90 websites.

The Danish Gambling Authority have found more illegal websites that have not been necessary to bring before a court, because the providers have complied with the Danish Gambling Authority's request after receiving a petition. The district court has ruled in favour of the Danish Gambling Authority in all tried cases since 2012.

Box 1. When is gambling illegal in Denmark?

It is illegal to provide gambling in Denmark without a licence from the Danish Gambling Authority. This also applies to foreign providers aiming their gambling provision at the Danish market. A game is considered aimed at Denmark if one or more of the following elements are present:

- Danish language
- Danish currency
- Debit cards that only work in Denmark
- Danish customer service
- Access via Steam (Digital distribution platform for various video games)

It is also against the Act on Gambling to mediate or promote gambling providers without a licence.

90

Websites blocked

Since 2012 up until today, the Danish Gambling Authority has successfully requested the district court to have 90 websites blocked that offered illegal gambling.