

**Gaming Machine Stakes & Prize Submission from Mitchells & Butlers Plc**

7<sup>th</sup> April 2013

**Re: Gaming Machine Stakes & Prizes Consultation**

Mitchells & Butlers (MAB) operates approximately 1,600 large Managed Houses in the UK and employs approximately 42,000 people. Many of our houses site Category C gaming machines which are important to the company.

MAB welcomes and fully supports the Government proposal for Category C machines maximum £100 prize, whilst maintaining the same maximum stake of £1 for a single game.

MAB does not consider that player tracking is appropriate for the types of Category C machines in pubs, where gaming is not the primary purpose of customers entering our premises. We believe that player tracking would not be accepted by our customers and that they are likely to cease playing gaming machines should tracking be required; this would be very detrimental to MAB and the pub industry as a whole.

We urge the Government to re-introduce the 3 year review system of stakes & prizes that was in place before the Gambling Act 2005. Pubs have already suffered from a delay of one year with income currently declining. We would therefore welcome a special review in 2015, rather than wait until 2016; thereafter the three year review be adhered to.

We urge the Government to implement this increase in Category C prize to £100 as soon as possible so as to assist the pub industry and avoid further income (and tax) decline.

We do not believe that gaming machines in pubs with a £100 maximum prize will impact adversely on problem gambling.

We have refrained from answering all the questions in the Consultation for the sake of brevity and therefore have succinctly put forward our main points for your consideration.

Should you have any queries, require any clarification or additional information please make contact.

We thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully

John Appleton

Director of Electronic Leisure, Mitchells & Butlers Plc

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