

12 June 2013



Pubs Consultation  
 Consumer and Competition Policy  
 Department for Business, Innovation and Skills  
 3rd Floor, Orchard 2  
 1 Victoria Street  
 Westminster  
 SW1H 0ET

Email: [pubs.consultation@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pubs.consultation@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Sirs

**Pub Companies and Tenants – Government Consultation**

We refer to the above consultation and attach our responses to the consultation questions.

We are the Astra Gaming Group, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Austrian Gaming Industries GmbH (AGI), part of the NOVOMATIC GROUP. The Group, which has interests across machine manufacturing, operations and distribution comprises Astra Games, Bell-Fruit Games, Empire Games, Gamestec, Mazooma Interactive and RLMS. It is the biggest and most influential company of its kind in the UK coin-op space.

We are responding to this consultation because we are concerned that the removal of the machine tie, as raised in Q8 part iii, would prove highly detrimental to the integrity of machine supply to the pub sector and would risk compromising one of the three main tenets of the Gambling Act 2005, that which says that gambling must be kept fair and crime-free.

Accompanying this letter are two submissions; the first from the UK's biggest machine manufacturer Bell-Fruit Games and the second from Gamestec Leisure, the largest supplier of gaming and other machines to the UK pub industry. They outline in clear terms how the machine tie promotes legal compliance and generally higher standards for operators and consumers and why its removal would set the pub sector back significantly.

We would be pleased to provide further evidence and clarification. Please acknowledge receipt of this response.

Yours faithfully

PP

Zane Mersich  
 CEO, Astra Gaming Group

