

Further to the above call for evidence, please see below for the evidence of Sunderland City Council.

The main clusters of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals in Sunderland are in betting shops in the principal shopping areas of the city, namely the City Centre, Southwick Green, Concord and Washington Galleries.

The City Centre and Washington Galleries are the two main shopping locations in the city and both are easily accessible by private car and public transport. Southwick Green and Concord (in Washington) are both locations within or adjacent to Lower Super Output Areas identified as being within the 10% most deprived in England and Wales in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015.

There is the presumption under the Gambling Act 2005 to grant a licence if the applicant can demonstrate they will comply with the licensing objectives:

- (a) preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime,
- (b) ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way, and
- (c) protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

All UK operators require an operating licence from the Gambling Commission and a premises licence from each local authority where they operate premises. These premises must comply with the objectives given above.

Consideration could be given to lowering the stakes of Fixed Odds Betting Terminals to £2 (bringing them in line with other on-street gambling machines) as part of addressing some of the problems associated with them including:

- High stake gambling on FOBTs leading to betting shop clustering in deprived areas;
- The lack of local authority planning and licensing powers to control our high streets
- Potential increased crime and anti-social behaviour associated with betting shop clustering
- The need for high stake gambling to be conducted in a regulated environment;
- The potential negative impact of betting shop clustering on other businesses and the local economy;
- Their potential overall detrimental impact on the safety and vitality of our high streets.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any of the information below further.