

# Basildon Council

BASILDON • BILLERICAY • WICKFORD

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport  
100 Parliament Street  
Westminster  
LONDON  
SW1A 2BQ

Date 19 January 2018  
Please ask for [REDACTED]  
Department LICENSING AUTHORITY  
Tel. No [REDACTED]  
E-Mail licensing@basildon.gov.uk  
Ref AA/GA05/LTRS/DCMSConsult.01

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Consultation on proposals for changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures**

Please find attached responses to questions set out in the above consultation document. We are responding as an organisation (Local Authority) with the responsibility for licensing gambling premises.

Yours faithfully,



Senior Licensing Officer  
*Encls.*

## CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO GAMING MACHINES AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY MEASURES

### SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

CONSULTATION QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Do you agree that the maximum stake of £100 on B2 machines (FOBT's) should be reduced? If yes, what alternative maximum stake for B2 machines (FOBT's do you support?	Yes, we do agree that the maximum stake of £100 on B2 machines should be reduced considerably to minimise the harm these machines can cause. Government have suggested that the maximum stake permitted on category B2 machines should be reduced between £50 and £2. Therefore, £2 is recommended as the maximum stake for these machines although this does not take account of any potential impact on the businesses locally.
2. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B1?	Category B1 machines are only available in casinos and there are already adequate controls over gambling in casinos. Therefore, we do agree with the Government's proposals to maintain the status quo on Category B1 machines.
3. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B3?	Category B3 machines have a maximum stake of £2 and there isn't a lot of evidence around these machines being a cause of harm. Therefore, we do agree with the Government's proposals to maintain the status quo on Category B3 machines.
4. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B3A?	Category B3A machines are low stake and are limited by premises type, therefore there are already adequate controls around these types of machines. Therefore, we do agree with the Government's proposals to maintain the status quo on Category B3A machines.
5. Do you agree with the government's proposal to maintain the status quo on category B4?	Category B4 machines have a maximum stake of £2 and there isn't a lot of evidence around these machines being a cause of harm. Therefore, we do agree with the Government's proposal to maintain the status quo on Category B4 machines.

CONSULTATION QUESTION	RESPONSE
11. Do you support this package of measures to improve player protection measures on gaming machines?	The objectives set out with the Gambling Act 2005 underpins the protection of vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, therefore we do support this package of measures to improve player protection.
12. Do you support this package of measures to improve player protection measures for the online sector?	The online sector is of concern as there seems to be less control over remote gambling than there does over land-based gambling. There needs to be better communication between operators to ensure that problems gamblers, that do 'self-exclude', are excluded from all licensed gambling premises. It is noted that GAMSTOP is expected to be in place by the end of 2017, which will allow customers to self-exclude from all online gambling operators licensed by the Commission.
13. Do you support this package of measures to address concerns about gambling advertising?	We would support better controls over advertising, particularly in relation to the timing of adverts in the local media (tv, radio etc.).
14. Do you agree the Government should consider alternative options including a mandatory levy if industry does not provide adequate funding for Research, Education and Treatment (RET)?	We would support there being an option available to introduce a levy in these circumstances and this levy should go towards providing better research, education and treatment facilities.
15. Do you agree with our assessment of the current powers available to local authorities?	Many smaller local authorities, where gambling control via the licensing regime is not a large area of work, find the subject of gambling a very complex area and therefore might not be so well equipped in terms of resources as perhaps some of our counterpart local authorities where gambling enforcement activity may be a daily occurrence. Whilst the Gambling Commission have Compliance Managers, it is very rare that local authorities such as Basildon receive support from them when undertaking compliance visits. Bearing in mind officers from the Gambling Commission are well versed in the Gambling Legislation, it would be helpful to have better support from the Gambling Commission as and when this becomes necessary.