

Economy and Environmental Services

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Date: 9th January 2018



Ms Tracey Crouch MP
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
100 Parliament Street
Westminster
London
SW1A 2BQ

Clem Smith
Head of Economic and Environmental Services

Dear Tracey

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

Please see our response to the proposals listed above, following a briefing to the Portfolio Holder for Environment & Sustainability and the Leader of the Council.

1. Do you agree that the maximum stake of £100 on B2 machines (FOBT's) should be reduced? If yes, what alternative stake for B2 machines do you support?

CBC supports reducing the maximum stake of £100 on all B2 machines to £2 on all content. The length of time it takes to play a non-slot B2 gaming machine should also be modified so as to make it more in keeping with reality with a minimum spin speed of 60 seconds.

2. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B1?

Yes.

3. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B3?

Yes.

4. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B3A?

Yes.

5. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B4?

Yes.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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6. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category C?

Yes.

7. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category D?

Yes.

8. Do you agree with the government's proposals to increase the stake and prize for prize gaming, in line with industry proposals?

No objection.

9. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on allocations for casinos, arcades and pubs?

Yes.

10. Do you agree with the government's proposals to bar contactless payments as a direct form of payment on gaming machines?

Yes.

11. Do you support this package of measures to improve player protection measures on gaming machines?

Yes but it is essential that these measures materialise and consideration must be given to regulation if the industry does not deliver within a set time period.

12. Do you support this package of measures to improve player protection measures for the online sector?

Yes but further attention is needed in this area and regulation should be considered if the voluntary measures and suggested controls do not come forwards in a set time period.

13. Do you support this package of measures to address concerns about gambling advertising?

Given the fact that sport is so heavily funded and endorsed through the gambling industry, and that the gambling industry therefore have licence to advertise during sporting events it is difficult to see how vulnerable people can be properly protected as they are likely to watch such events. The proposed controls are therefore considered compromised from the outset.

14. Do you agree the government should consider alternative options including a mandatory levy if industry does not provide adequate funding for RET?

No the government should impose a levy immediately to ensure adequate provision is made for research, education and treatment concerning gambling to prevent the burden falling on an already massively over stretched public sector.

15. Do you agree with our assessment of the current powers available to local authorities?

No further licensing objectives concerning the prevention of public nuisance and improved public safety and the ability for local authorities to use cumulative impact assessments should be brought forwards through amendments to the legislation. It is not considered feasible to use the Development Control regime to prevent the proliferation of betting premises. It is apparent that the explosion in the number of betting shops is linked to the removal of the demand test and permitted areas as formerly contained the Gaming Act 1968. It is therefore suggested consideration should be given to re- introducing controls of this nature.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Geraint Thomas
Portfolio Holder for the Environment & Sustainability
Crawley Borough Council

