

**Q1. Do you agree that the maximum stake of £100 on B2 machines (FOBTs) should be reduced? If yes, what alternative maximum stake for B2 machines (FOBTs) do you support?**

I want to see the Government drastically reduce the stakes allowed on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals from the staggering £100 a stake currently allowed to £2. The case for a stake reduction to £2 is now overwhelming. All of us who have campaigned on this issue know the misery that Fixed Odds Betting Terminals can cause, with casino games like roulette allowing players to stake £100 every 20 seconds. That is £50 million being lost to Fixed Odds Betting Terminals in Wales alone. No wonder Fixed Odds Betting Terminals are often called the 'crack cocaine' of gambling.

**Q10. Do you agree with the government's proposals to bar contactless payments as a direct form of payment to gaming machines?**

Requiring people using gaming machines to insert cash can help them maintain some level of control over their activity. It can slow down play and gives players greater time to make considered decisions about the amount of money they are using.

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

Whilst these proposals do not go far enough in their current form I support them as an initial step to begin to tackle the problems that can arise from online gambling. Online gambling provides a way for people to gamble quickly, privately and easily and it can be harder for players to keep track of how much money they are losing. Greater protection measures are needed to regulate this area of gambling.

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

Whilst I would hope that the industry would voluntarily provide sufficient funding for the necessary research, education and treatment I agree that should this not be the case the Government should introduce a mandatory levy. Problem gambling affects 430,000 people in the UK annually. As well as this being a tragedy for gamblers themselves and their families, a recent report by the well-respected economics think tank, the Centre for Economic and Business Research (Cebr), showed that problem gambling is also a huge cost to the Government. It estimates that this cost to the UK is £1.5bn a year when its impact on wider social welfare is taken into account – including areas such as employment, mental health and financial stability. The industry needs to ensure that it plays its part in reducing gambling-related harm.

Many thanks,  
Susan

**Susan Elan Jones MP / AS**

Labour MP for Clwyd South