

TRACEY CROUCH MP
Minister for Sport and Civil Society
Department for Digital, Culture, Media
and Sport
100 Parliament Street
Westminster
London
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Please ask for:	Licensing Team
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22 January 2018

Dear Madam

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

Further to your published consultation ending 23 January 2018, these issues have been debated and considered at a meeting of the Mid Suffolk District Council Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 1 December 2017. The Committee agreed a collective response, and this is submitted below:

Question 1 – The Committee felt that Option 4 was the best option to achieve the Government's balanced objective of a sector that can grow and contribute to the economy, and one that is socially responsible, however the Committee ask the Government to also consider at the same time to increase the spin speed time from 20 seconds and to restrict the maximum amount that you could put into the machine at any one time.

Question 2 to Question 7 – The Committee agreed with the Governments proposals to keep the status quo on gaming machine categories B1, B3, B3A, B4, C and D.

Question 8 – The Committee disagrees with the Governments proposals to increase the stakes and prizes in line with industry proposals. The Committee feels that as Option 4 is the best option to reduce B2 gaming machines increasing the stakes on other gaming machines may push the B2 problems onto other category machines.

Question 9 to Question 14 – The Committee agrees with the Governments proposals on Questions 9 to 14, the Committee feels that much more should be done to reduce free betting and to curtail advertising from for example Sports, Social Media, tv before the "Watershed" and family shows.

Question 15 – The Committee agrees with the Governments assessment of the current powers being available as currently being sufficient.

Question 16 – The Committee suggests that the Government considers changing the way gaming machines look and sounds the way it has done with cigarette packets to make them unappealing, as humans we are attracted to bright lights and sound, and reduction in these will make the machines less appealing.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D.K. Guthrie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'G'.

Mrs Kathie Guthrie
Chair of Mid Suffolk District Council
Licensing and Regulatory Committee