



The Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

19 December 2017

Dear Karen

FIXED ODDS BETTING TERMINALS (FOBT)

This letter is being sent to your Department at the request of the London Diocesan Synod, to express alarm at how the current regulations on fixed odds betting terminals create personal financial problems and increase the risk of addiction for gamblers. Estimates suggest there are more than 30,000 problem gamblers in the area covered by the Diocese of London. The Diocesan Synod has agreed to call for the current £100 limit on each stake to be reduced to a £2 limit on licensed gaming machines in FOBT.

The Diocesan Synod debated and voted on gambling at its meeting in April 2016. The full text of the motion and the voting results is enclosed with this letter to be registered as our contribution to the open consultation process on FOBT currently being held by the Department of Culture Media and Sport.

With best wishes and thanks

Yours



Copy: London Diocesan Synodical Secretary

Extract from: London Diocesan Synod minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2016

At its meeting held on 5 April 2016, the London Diocesan Synod debated and voted on the following motion. The motion was carried, with voting figures as recorded below the motion.

Motion on ‘Gambling’

‘This Synod resolve to submit the following motion for debate by General Synod:

“This Synod, mindful of

(a) the destructive impact which accessible, high stake machine gambling can have on families and whole communities and

(b) the widespread public concern about the very large amounts being wagered at

fixed odds betting terminals located in high street betting shops,

calls on Her Majesty’s Government as a matter of urgency to bring forward proposals for the amendment of existing legislation

to reduce very substantially from £100 the maximum amount which may be wagered on a single game at such terminals

in order to reduce the real risk of harm to large numbers of vulnerable people.’

The motion was put to the vote, with the following results:-

In favour: 100

Against: 1

Abstentions: 1

