

West Lancashire Borough Council

Response to DDCMS consultation on proposed changes to gaming machines and social responsibility measures

- 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?

Yes. The Council supports a significant reduction in the maximum stake on such machines and would propose a reduction in the stake limit for B2 machines to £2.00, which is in line with previously stated responses from the Local Government Association and other Local Authorities.

- Q2. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B1?

Yes. The Council supports this proposal.

- Q3. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B3?

Yes. The Council supports this proposal.

- Q4. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B3A?

Yes. The Council supports this proposal.

- Q5. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B4?

Yes. The Council supports this proposal.

- Q6. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category C?

Yes. The Council supports this proposal.

- Q7. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category D?

Yes. The Council supports this proposal.

- Q8. Do you agree with the government's proposals to increase the stake and prize for prize gaming, in line with industry proposals?

Yes. Given the low risks presented by such activities, the Council supports the proposal to increase the stake from £1.00 to £2.00 and prizes from £70.00 to £100.00.

- Q9. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on allocations for casinos, arcades and pubs?

Yes. The Council supports this proposal.

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

Yes. The Council supports this proposal as a means to protect more vulnerable players.

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

Yes. The Council supports this proposal.

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

Yes. The Council supports this proposal.

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

Yes. The Council supports this proposal.

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

Yes. The Council supports this proposal.

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

Yes. The Council accepts that existing provisions allow Local Authorities to address issues of cumulative impact through their local licensing policies. In supporting this proposal, the Council notes that Local Authorities are required to review their policies during 2018/19.

Q16. Are there any other relevant issues, supported by evidence, that you would like to raise as part of this consultation but that has not been covered by questions 1-15?

None.