

Please ask for: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Date: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018

[REDACTED]  
Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)  
100 Parliament Street  
London  
SW1A 2BQ

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Gambling (triennial review) consultation**

Thank you very much for allowing a time extension so that Leicester City Council's Neighbourhood Safety and Community Involvement (NSCI) Scrutiny Commission was able to consider responding to your departmental consultation on reviewing stake limits in Fixed Odds Betting Terminals.

**The recommendation from the NSCI is that the department's Option 4 – a stake limit of £2 – be introduced on all B2 (Fixed Odds Betting Terminals - FOBT) content.**

Commission members understand that ministers are minded to support this option and would welcome its introduction as soon as possible. The council has also supported the reduction in stake limits from £100 to £2.

I had the privilege of chairing a scrutiny review by the NCSI commission into the impact of gambling, and some of the strongest evidence came from unfortunate people who lost very large sums of money in a very short time through gambling on FOBTs.

That evidence was accompanied by clear further evidence that despite gambling industry commitments to intervening to stop excessive gambling almost none of those affected was asked to moderate their spending.

The review did not accept that reducing the stake limit would cost jobs and close shops. It felt the economic effect on poor communities of access to high-stake FOBTs had a much greater economic effect.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Inderjit Gugnani

Chair: Leicester City Council Neighbourhood Services and Community Involvement  
Scrutiny Commission

CC: Jon Ashworth MP; Liz Kendall MP; Keith Vaz MP;  
Local Government Association