

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

Consultation Questions and Responses

1. 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?

Tower Hamlets supports the proposal put forward by the Local Government Association and other organisations that the maximum stake on B2 machines should be reduced to £2.00.

2. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B1 gaming machines?

Tower Hamlets currently operates a 'no casino' policy and a resolution to this effect is contained in 'The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Gambling Policy 2013- 2016'.

There are no objections to this proposal.

3. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B3 gaming machines?

There are no objections to this proposal.

4. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B3A gaming machines?

There are no objections to this proposal

5. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B4 gaming machines?

There are no objections to this proposal

6. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category C gaming machines?

There are no objections to this proposal.

7. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category D gaming machines?

There are no objections to this proposal.

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

Tower Hamlets, has no objections to this proposal, on the condition that the Gambling Commission continues to monitor, this issue and alerts the relevant bodies, of any developments that "would change this assessment".

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

Tower Hamlets currently operates a 'no casino' policy and a resolution to this effect is contained in section 166 of 'The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Gambling Policy 2016- 2019'. There are no objections to this proposal.

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

Tower Hamlets supports this proposal. As per para 12.1 of 'The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Gambling Policy 2016- 2019'. LBTH has regard to the Gambling Commission's Guidance in regards applications and the ability for staff to monitor the use of the machines by vulnerable people, when considering the number/nature/circumstances of betting machines an operator wants to offer. LBTH where appropriate may apply conditions to premises licences to ensure all ATM or other cash terminals are separates from gaming machines, so that clients have to leave the machines for more funds as required. They should also display stickers with Gam Care (or replacement organisation) Helpline information prominently displayed. Furthermore in the Standard Conditions applied to Betting Shop premises debit cards may only be used for indirect payment e.g. purchase of token, this relates for Category B2,3,4, C and D machines. Therefore based on this and the information supplied to us by PHE we would support this view.

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

Para. 3.6 of 'The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Gambling Policy 2016- 2019' places an expectation on applicants for Premises Licences consider their Local Risk Assessment how vulnerable people such as those with gambling dependencies are protected, this may include training of staff in brief intervention when customer shows signs of excessive gambling. This is also supported by Social Responsibility Code Provisions. In light of this and information provided by PHE and in support of GLA's opinion, Tower Hamlets supports this proposal.

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

Local Authorities only have the remit to grant and regulate premises licences under the Gambling Act 2005. This part of the consultation concerns regulation of operator's licences, which fall within the remit of the Gambling Commission. However we have no objections.

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

This again is not something Local Authorities regulate, as it is national therefore falls within the remit of the Gambling Commission. However we have no objections.

14. Do you agree that the Government should consider alternatives options, including a mandatory levy, if industry does not provide funding the Research, Education and Treatment (RET)?

Tower Hamlets supports this proposal. The Social Responsibility Codes details now and our Gambling Policy 2016-2019 supports it. This also supported in the information provided by PHE.

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

London Borough of Tower Hamlets believes that Local Authorities should be given more overt powers similar to Planning powers, to restrict the number of gambling premises on the high street. These powers should be similar to those available under the regulation of the Licensing Act 2003 Cumulative Impact Zones.

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

Additional supporting information attached

Consultation Briefing and Literature Review Gaming Machine

Map: Premise that hold gambling licences in Tower Hamlets