

In support of my completion of your online questionnaire I have identified the following sources of relevant data/ information.

As a councillor and former member of Lincolnshire County Council Community Safety and Public Health Scrutiny Committee I am extremely concerned at the extent of gambling in the UK and severity of impact it has on people's lives.

The significant growth in gambling is particularly concerning as is the level of profit made by those involved in the gambling industry.

It is disturbing that advertising and the rollout of the National Lottery etc have legitimised gambling and turned it into a culturally acceptable norm.

I support any initiative that makes it harder for people to access gambling and which caps the amounts that may be gambled in a single act.

I also support any measure that prevents the marketing of gambling to young adults and children and controls data use to prevent gamblers being repeatedly approached by gaming firms.

I believe there should be standards set for use by local authorities which limit the number of gambling sites exist in their authority and which also consider the economic status of the area such venues or machines are located eg where there is a high level of poverty/low income give authorities the ability to refuse gaming/ gambling businesses.

I support calls from charities for more funding and greater support for gamblers.

The level of suicides recorded as related to gambling debt is tragic and disturbing. The provision of specialist help and even debt relief should be available to those facing gambling related financial crisis.

On a personal note I grew up in a single parent household. We lived on the poverty line. One year a family friend treated us to a holiday in Butlins. I saved every penny of my pocket money for a year so I could have spending money during our stay. The Butlins site had a gaming area. At 13 I was dazzled by the bright lights and sounds. My younger sister also had some savings.

I lost every penny in one afternoon of the £13 saved. So did my sister. We were only using 2p and 10p coins.

This summer I took my daughter to Mablethorpe.

I set a limit. 5 goes only. When it was used up that was it. However, i was disturbed to note that, to encourage continued play and return visits, the site offered a rewards ticket system. Most prizes were aimed at children and young adults. In most cases a ridiculously high number of tickets were required to claim prizes.

The shop advertising the prizes tempted my daughter. It was laid out like a sweetshop.

The venue was well run with a cafe and seating. It was designed to encourage vistors to stay. It even had a bowling alley.

Games machines were as attractive to my daughter as the gambling machines. A child without access to a computer would easily be attracted to the games machines where the turns lasted only a few minutes each and cost on average £1 to £2 (playing with a friend) a go.

This area also needs tighter regulation

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These games are exciting, use advanced graphics and sound effects. They had seats or even vehicles allowing a 3d experience. Whilst fun they were also addictive. A child could easily spend £10 in as many minutes.

I suggest a maximum fee per go and min.play time per go of 10 minutes.