

I have just filled in your online questionnaire. Despite reading beforehand and my previous knowledge of the subject, and being the holder of a research degree, I found the consultation questions confusing. As a result I have little confidence that I have voted always in the direction of my views and that of the organisation I represent (which I did not have the opportunity to name). I am not sure that my response actually showed that I was speaking for an entire organisation (as seen below). I was expected to support or not support government proposals with insufficient listing of what I was being asked to approve. In response to some questions, I might gladly approve a government measure while having some reservations about it. It was not then clear how I should vote with a choice of a yes/no/don't know expression of support.

In further response to particular questions:

Q1. We have great concerns about FOBTs and believe that they should be limited to a bet of £2 at a time. Intermediate amounts between £100 and larger than £2 do not go far enough, as players just tend to keep going for longer.

Q12. Gamblers should not be allowed to bet on FOBTs using borrowed money, thus ruling out the allowed, at the very least, the use of credit cards. Gamblers are, like the rest of the population, especially vulnerable to poor judgement in the middle of the night. Therefore, we submit that online gambling should be blocked between, say, 12.00 midnight and 6.00am. Vulnerable people should be able to set up protection for themselves being able to access any gambling sites, using an online mechanism such as GAMSTOP.

Q.13 We have concerns that the government measures as proposed do not go far enough. Free gambling is being targeted at children and getting them attracted or addicted to gambling while under age for legal gambling. Free gambling should be subject to measures (such as age restrictions) applied to gambling that is paid for.

Q.14 The government needs to put more support in place for parents and to monitor the development of gambling following measures introduced, giving itself powers to introduce more measures quickly if particular ones are found to be circumvented.

with regards

International and Communities Officer

King's Community Church