

Summary of Consultation questions with suggested responses.

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, we believe that the maximum stake should be reduced and that should be down to £2 to minimise the harm these machines can cause.

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

Yes - B1 machines are only available in casino's and there already adequate controls around casino's, there is much less evidence around these machines being a cause of harm.

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

Yes - B3 Machines have a maximum stake of £2 already and again there is much less evidence around these machines being a cause of harm.

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

Yes - these machines have low stakes and are limited by premises types they are allowed e.g. certain clubs.

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

Yes – B4 Machines have a maximum stake of £2 already and again there is much less evidence around these machines being a cause of harm.

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

Yes – These machines have the lowest stakes £1 and a comparatively modest maximum prize £100

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

Yes – These are very low stake and very low maximum prizes and do have the same potential to cause harm and this should remain the case.

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

Yes – most of these increases appear modest.

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

Yes – Clearly if someone is going to a casino or arcade they would expect the majority of the time spent there to be gambling hence the wider availability of machines, in pubs gambling is and should remain a side attraction. The current numbers work well.

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

Yes – contactless payment is so convenient, it would be easy for a customer to lose track of how much they have gambled.

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

Yes any further player protection can only be a good thing, particularly as the existing self-exclusion scheme has had poor take-up.

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

Yes – the online sector is a big concern, as there seems little control in this area compared to the gaming Machine sector, in particular there is little or no collaboration between operators to ensure problem gamblers do not go between them when sanctions apply. So these measures could go further although "GAMSTOP " should address this.

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

Yes –Advertising controls are important to protect children and young adults, so new measures would be welcome

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 – If the industry that has caused a problem is not willing to pay for its treatment through Research, Education and Treatment the government should consider a Mandatory levy.

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

No – For many smaller district councils this is not a regular area of work, it is a very complex area and resources are not such that the Westminster approach could even be contemplated, more straightforward means for rejecting applications or greater support from the Gambling Commission is necessary.

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?

Yes – As well as reducing the maximum stakes, in particular for Fixed Odds Betting Terminals, the government should also bring in time limits that individuals can spend on such machines. The maximum stake can be bet in something like 2.5 seconds, so even £2, the potential for losses is still quite high. The Council appreciates the Government would need to liaise with the industry and machine manufacturers, but considers this an important additional safeguard.