

Consultation Questions and Draft Responses for Consideration

Q1: Do you agree that the maximum stake of £100 on B2 machines (FOBT's) should be reduced? If yes, what alternative maximum stake for B2 machines (FOBTs) do you support?

Yes.

Option 4 - Maximum stake reduced to £2 on all B2 content

Rationale - FOBT's are prevalent on our High Streets and town centres. They are accessible to large sections of the community and can become highly addictive having a detrimental impact on the well being of individuals and their families.

There are often high concentrations of betting shops in areas of deprivation and unemployment with members of those communities more likely to gamble on high stake machines compared to any other socio-economic group.

Currently B3, B3A and B4 machines have a maximum stake of £2 and maximum prizes of £500, £500 and £400 respectively.

Limiting the maximum stake of B2 machines to £2 would bring them in line with other category B machines.

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

Rationale - Prize gaming stakes and prizes are relatively low in comparison to other types of gaming and have not changed since the introduction of the Gambling Act in 2007. This category of gaming facilitates games such as Bingo and prize gaming at family entertainment centres where participants do not tend to be problem gamblers. The proposed increase from £1 to £2 stake and from £70 to £100 prize is moderate and supported.

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

Yes

Rationale - The industry's recommendation to increase the allocation of gaming machines in arcades and pubs is noted. The Authority would not wish to see an increase in these allocations because of the potential lack of supervision by dedicated staff with the introduction of more gambling machines. Pubs are often frequented by families and the prevalence of gaming machines and lack of adequate supervision could result in children gaining access to machines.

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

Yes

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

Yes

Further controls relating to players self regulating by setting time and/or monetary limits are welcomed.

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

Yes

The Authority does not regulate online gambling but any player protection measures are generally welcomed.

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

Yes

The Authority does not regulate gambling advertising but supports the initiatives put forward by GambleAware.

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

The Authority is not involved with the current voluntary system for Research, Education and Treatment. This is enforced by the Gambling Commission. We therefore have no comment to make on this matter.

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

Yes

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?

No