



Department for
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Jo Swinson MP
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Your Ref: JS4566
Our Ref:
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Dear Jo

Thank you for your email of 28 October to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, on behalf of a number of your constituents regarding the reduction of the maximum stake for Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs). Your correspondence has been passed to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as the issue falls within this department's remit. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area, and I am sorry for the delay in replying to you.

In May 2018, the government announced that it planned to introduce legislation to reduce the maximum stake for Fixed Odds Betting Terminals from £100 to £2. The Statutory Instrument to effect the change was laid before Parliament on 15th November and, following Parliamentary approval, I signed them into law on 20 December 2018. The regulations will come into force on 1 April 2019 and can be found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/1402/contents/made>.

The government remains committed to taking action to protect the most vulnerable in society from the harm that these gaming machines can cause and this has also to be a priority for the gambling industry. Industry now has clarity on timings for implementation, and we expect them to mitigate employment impacts and provide the right support to those affected by any job losses.

We have always stated that gambling-related harm must be thought of as more than one product, which is why in May we also announced a package of measures that will strengthen protections around gaming machines as a whole, online gambling, advertising and treatment for problem gamblers. The government expects the gambling industry to continue to engage wholeheartedly with these measures.

With best wishes,

Mims Davies MP
Minister for Sport and Civil Society

