

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

Fixed Odds Betting Terminals

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me about Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs).

I understand the concerns of many people that the Government's decision to reduce the maximum stake for FOBTs from £100 to £2 could have a considerable impact on the gambling industry and may result in considerable job losses. The latest figures [released by the industry regulator the Gambling Commission](#) reveal that the UK gambling industry now takes £14bn a year from punters and it is vital that bookmakers take action to minimise the impact that reduced income from FOBTs may have on employees.

I recognise too that the majority of people who gamble do so responsibly. However FOBTs, which allow users to bet up to £100 every 20 seconds, cause real harm to individuals, their families and local communities. It is no surprise therefore that FOBTs are frequently described as the 'crack cocaine of gambling' with research from the Responsible Gambling Trust illustrating that an estimated 37% of FOBT users have experienced some form of gambling related harm.

All this is why Labour have long called for the maximum stake on FOBTs to be cut. In announcing their plans to reduce the maximum stake for FOBTs from £100 to £2 the Government have listened to our concerns and recognised the misery that FOBTs have brought on the lives of gambling addicts and their families and communities for too many years.

Thanks again to all those who have contacted me about Fixed Odds Betting Terminals

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

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