

From: Ian Bartlett  
To: callforevidence@culture.gov.uk  
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Subject: Gamserve response

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Good morning,

We at [Gamserve.org.uk](http://Gamserve.org.uk) have responded to the governments call for written evidence on the issues of FOBTs and Gambling advertising.

#### FOBTs

We believe that they are having an extremely negative impact not only on the participants but also in communities.

I personally can reflect on how I was drawn in by the offer of being able to win £500 every 20 seconds. It seemed to be too good to be true and unfortunately that was the case.

I initially started playing with small amounts of money (£2 a spin on roulette) but for me within a matter of just weeks this changed. I increased my stake to £5 then £10 until I was eventually spending £100 a spin.

I found that the adrenaline rush; the anticipation of playing had somehow taken over. Now instead of a small stake I was playing huge amounts of money. It became a must- I **had** to play! The insatiable desire to gamble on these machines was too great and I just **could not** walk away or play responsibly.

I could not sustain playing £100 every 20 seconds. I simply did not have the finances to do so.

I then resorted to borrowing money and when all of those avenues were closed I resorted to crime. After committing lots of offences I received 5 years imprisonment.

Communities had been directly impacted as a direct result of my addiction to FOBTs.

I was released from prison in 2008 and by 2012 I had returned back to the FOBTs but this time I substituted crime for credit and within a 3 month period I lost £10000 on the terminals.

I did not resort to crime this time but it would take me another 2 years to pay back all that I owed.

I have not gambled since 2012.

We believe that FOBTs are highly addictive and that they do impact the lives of those who play them but also communities are adversely affected by them.

So we support either a reduction of the stake from £100 to £2 per play or alternatively a Total ban.

#### Gambling advertising

We believe that there are too many gambling adverts and that they are broadcast during the day and at times when young children and the vulnerable can be enticed and be affected by what is being broadcast.

These adverts are portraying that there's nothing wrong with gambling and that people are encouraged to participate.

There is evidence coming to light that would suggest that children are beginning to recognise that

to gamble is normal.

We at Gamserve have a petition running in which we are calling for a "9pm watershed on all televised gambling advertising. "

We believe that this simple measure would better safeguard and protect this generation and future generations of children and the vulnerable from developing a gambling addiction.

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Author "Forty years a gambler"

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