

Please note that Sedgemoor District Council's Licensing & General Purposes Committee considered the call for evidence at a meeting held yesterday. I have, therefore, been instructed to provide the following response to three of the questions posed within the original document:-

Q1) What, if any, changes in maximum stakes and/or prizes across the different categories of gaming machines support the Government's objective set out in this document?

Full Council debated the issue of the impact of B2 category Gaming Machines and reached a resolution on the matter in March 2015. Please find attached a copy of the minutes of the meeting including details of the resolution. The Committee recognises that this is still the position of the Council on the issue of B2 machines which is considered to be the main point of concern with regards to Gaming Machines.

Q2) To what extent have industry measures on gaming machines mitigated harm or improved player protections and mitigated harm to consumers and communities?

The Council acknowledges that some mitigation has been implemented since their decision in 2015 in the form of social responsibility codes. However, the full impact of such measures has yet to be determined and, therefore, no evidence can be brought to bear at this stage.

Q3) What other factors should Government be considering to ensure the correct balance in gaming machine regulation?

The commencement of the construction of Hinkley Point C (power station) in the locality is expected to have a significant impact on gambling and licensing policies and procedures as well as many other issues within the Sedgemoor District. However, as approval for the project has only just been given, it is impossible to evaluate the impact and provide any evidence at this stage.

In view of the above, and the short timeframe provided for responses to this call for evidence, it is the Council's view that a comprehensive consultation on these issues should be undertaken with full terms of reference