

FOBTs the FACTS



Fixed Odds Betting Terminals

What are FOBTs?

Fixed-odds betting terminals (FOBTs) are high stakes electronic machines, on which customers can gamble on the outcome of simulated games, such as roulette.

There are

33,611

FOBTs in the UK

Gambling
Commission

99.4%

are in betting shops

Gambling
Commission

£1.8bn

is lost every year on FOBTs

Gambling
Commission

8,531

betting shops in UK

Gambling
Commission

What is the problem with FOBTs?

FOBTs are an anomaly in gambling regulation, with high stakes that have been linked with high losses, gambling harm and a rising number of police incidents.

62%

of gamblers surveyed said they played on FOBTs until all their money had gone

2CV / Campaign for Fairer Gambling

£100

can be staked on an FOBT

every 20 seconds

That is a stake limit
50 times
higher than on other high street machines

96%

of police incidents relating to gambling venues were at betting shops

Landman Economics/Gambling Commission

230,000 sessions on FOBTs led to a
loss of more than £1,000
in 2015/6

Gambling Commission

£11.3bn

has been lost by consumers on FOBTs since 2008

Landman Economics

How much is the £1.8bn in gambling losses on FOBTs each year?

£150m

a month

£34.6m

a week

£5m

a day

£205.5k

an hour

£3,424

a minute

£57.08

a second

What could £1.8bn fund each year?



77,646

Nurses



58,250

Police officers



63,988

Secondary school teachers



61,339

Firemen

*Figures calculated by average 2017 salary values according to PayScale

The Impact on Licensed Betting Operators is Materially Overstated

Bookmakers have claimed that regulating FOBT stakes would see them lose large sums of Gross Gambling Yield (GGY) and lead to shop closures and a significant impact on the Treasury balance sheet.

However, analysis by the **Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR)** has shown:

£45m

Gross Value Added will be redistributed into the economy from the lost income on FOBTs

Reducing FOBT stakes to

£2

would reduce GGY by only £335 million, 47% lower than the £640 million outlined in the initial draft Impact Assessment

£210m

is the estimated fiscal cost of problem gambling related to FOBTs

Any attrition from gambling is likely to be either saved (thus benefiting the economy through investment in the long term) or spent on other goods and services which could, in turn, provide a boost to other sectors of the economy.

It won't simply vanish.

Social impact must be factored into the decision

The **main beneficiaries** of a reduction to a £2 stake **are those from deprived areas or on lower incomes.**

£1.5 billion

is the estimated welfare cost of problem gambling related to FOBTs on themselves, their families and their wider social networks.



What should be done about FOBTs?

The stake on FOBTs should be reduced to £2 now. This is the only effective way to protect consumers from gambling harm on these machines. This call is championed by:

- ▶ Churches, including CofE, Muslim, Sikh and other faith groups
- ▶ Cross party Parliamentary support in both the Commons and Lords
- ▶ 93 Local Authorities
- ▶ The Royal Society for Public Health and mental health charities
- ▶ Think tanks, consumer groups, social activists and gambling commentators

This is not an official publication of the House of Commons or the House of Lords. It has not been approved by either House or its committees. All-Party Parliamentary Groups are informal groups of Members of both Houses with a common interest in particular issues.

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