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FIRST CLASS

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Dear Sirs

Call for Evidence: Submission on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals

I refer to the invitation to make submissions in relation to the above.

Having considered the relevant papers I would simply state as Clerk to North Lanarkshire Licensing Board that I feel devolving legislative competence in relation to gaming machines authorised by betting premises licences is to be welcomed. If there is substantive evidence that such machines can become instantly addictive then I feel there is merit in the measures proposed. I further feel that if the machines in question are capable of being addictive allowing Scottish Ministers to reduce the number of machines in betting premises to zero is to be welcomed. I note the limitation of the power however in that it will only be available to Scottish Ministers in relation to applications for new betting premises licences.

I feel the Scottish Government's interim response in the matter makes sound observations. I think the Scottish Government is correct to be concerned that the proposed powers are only limited to betting premises licences and therefore cannot affect the operation of the machines in other premises. The Government's concern that the powers should only apply to future applications for betting premises licences is I think soundly based since if it is felt there is a proliferation of these machines (which some perceive are being addictive) then the proposed measures will not have any immediate and/or significant impact in relation to the situation at present.

I hope the foregoing is of some assistance to you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "June Murray".

Clerk to the Licensing Board

June Murray, Executive Director, Corporate Services, Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street, Motherwell ML1 1AB



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE