

Appendix B – Responses to consultation and Officer comments (in red)

Gambling generates no real wealth and merely bleeds money from people.

This is not something the Gambling Statement of Principles will deal with. Opinions on gambling is not relevant when publishing the statement.

I think we have many too many betting shops, and they should be restricted/reduced in number.

The guidance from the Gambling Commission states: *In deciding to reject an application, a licensing authority should rely on reasons that demonstrate that the licensing objectives are not being, or are unlikely to be, met, and such objections do not relate to the licensing objectives. An authority's decision cannot be based on dislike of gambling, or a general notion that it is undesirable to allow gambling premises in an area (with the exception of the casino resolution powers)".*

Each application has to be judged on it's own merits and unless evidence is received to revoke an existing licence, the number can not be reduced.

It does not help people who are addicted to gambling enough

This is not the function of the statement of principles. This is a duty for the operators and the gambling commission. If operators were not meeting their responsibilities, action would mainly be taken by the Gambling Commission.

It's a complex 54 page document, how can most members of the public contribute a meaningful and well informed view on such things. If most can't then how can you achieve a balanced consultation?

The statement of gambling principles is based on guidance from the gambling commission of what needs to be contained in the document. Gambling is also very widespread and doesn't just cover betting shops as some believe.

On page 14 under the paragraph title 'Enforcement' - it suggests any punishment should be 'appropriate'. This word is extremely ambiguous and can mean almost anything. If you construct all these detailed rules, then the punishment should be encapsulated in a more precise way. At least indicate the general approach. for instance ' the Council views infractions very seriously and will take appropriate action' or 'the Council views any infractions as not serious and will punish appropriately'.

The word appropriate is used in the paragraph titled Proportionate - regulators should only intervene when necessary. Remedies should be appropriate to the risk posed and costs identified and minimized.

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Unfortunately enforcement covers a number of different potential issues and can not be anymore specific than is detailed in the statements. Any infringements will be looked at on a case-by-case basis and officers will then take into account all the factors before deciding on that action, if any, needs to be taken.

The statement is too long & I don't understand some of it. I think a lot of people fall into the vulnerable category & more protection is needed -self barring schemes, Leaflets & helpline information is much too little & too late. We're bombarded in the media with gambling adverts but I don't know the probability of winning or losing & question that it is fair & open.

The length of the statement has been addressed above. It is down to the operators and the gambling commission to address what support is needed and that gambling is fair and open. It is down to the local authority to make sure the licences are granted to those that meet and continue to meet, the licensing objectives.