

**Email to John Mann – 09/03/13**

Dear Mr John Mann

I have become aware of publicity in the media about electronic gambling machines that are causing problems in betting shops.

I understand that Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) are electronic gaming machines in betting shops, on which it is possible to stake up to £100 every 20 seconds on roulette and other casino games. Betting shops are each currently limited to four FOBTs, so in order to offer more machines, they open up additional shops within a close proximity which is leading to clustering – particularly in deprived areas.

The machines have regularly been called “the crack cocaine of gambling” because of their highly addictive content and their propensity to turn people who enjoy a bet into problem gamblers.

By using the website [www.stopthefobts.org](http://www.stopthefobts.org) I have been able to see how many machines there are in our constituency and the amount gambled in the last year – based on estimates. I would recommend that you visit the website and see for yourself.

There seems to be plenty of stories of anti-social behavior, people losing money they cannot afford and violence as a result of these machines.

The Stop the FOBTs campaign is calling for the removal of roulette content from FOBTs in betting shops as well as a reduction in the maximum stake to £2 and a slower speed of play.

The government is able to do this without primary legislation and it seems important something is done quickly to protect the consumer from a potentially harmful product.

I have committed to supporting the Stop the FOBTs campaign and I hope you will too, to prevent these machines causing a problem in our constituency.

I look forward to hearing what you are proposing to do on this matter.

Yours sincerely,  
Leon Duveen

**Response from John Mann – 09/03/13**

And which betting shops in Worksop are you proposing be shut down?

John Mann MP for Bassetlaw

01909 506200

### **Reply sent to John Mann – 09/03/13**

Dear Mr Mann,

It's not betting shops that I am objecting to, it's the "Fixed Odds Betting Terminals" (what used to be called one armed bandits) installed in many of them that need tighter regulation. It is too easy to stake too much money far too quickly and, as with many arcade type games, they can be addictive.

The campaign is asking for your support to get the Minister concerned (Hugh Robertson at DCMS) to act on this.

Leon Duveen

### **Second Response from John Mann – 10/03/13**

Read your own letter. Once again you have no idea what you are talking about. The campaign is to reduce the number of betting shops. Wakey , wakey.

So please answer the question, which ones do you want closing down? How many is the optimal number for Worksop.

Pubs and clubs have the same machines, for example Manton Club. Have you been in there to discuss your proposal yet?

The same games are available online, but you have no comparable proposals.

You make no proposals for casinos, covered by different legislation.

John Mann MP for Bassetlaw

01909 506200

### **Second Reply sent to John Mann – 11/03/13**

Dear Mr Mann,

This campaign is not about closing betting shops and I am not calling for any to be shut down. It is also not about stopping people gambling in pubs or clubs. It is not even about removing all FOBTs from betting shops. It is simply about regulating FOBTs to make them safer and fairer for the users. Rather than making wild statements simply because a member of a rival political party raises an issue with you, I suggest you talk to the people from the Campaign for Fairer Gambling who are behind this campaign and find out more about this issue.

There is a discussion to be had about how gambling has become more prevalent in society and whether this is a good thing or not, one I would be glad to have with you or anyone else at another time but in the meantime I hope that you join other MPs from all parties in supporting this campaign.

Yours sincerely

Leon Duveen