

# Fairer Gambling Campaign challenges ABB

**S**IR - As ardent campaigners in respect of FOBTs/B2 gaming machines we wanted to take this opportunity to set the record straight over B2s in respect of recent claims by the Association of British Bookmakers (ABB) in your August 24-30 edition.

The ABB said: "... we have no fundamental objection to B2s being part of the Adult Gaming Centre offering."

We say: "Of course they have no objection, because they know that in the current political and media climate there is no possibility of AGCs being allowed B2s."

The ABB said: "Dispatches... claimed there were huge amounts of clustering of betting shops across the country, based solely on an example of one road in Deptford in London."

We say: "David Lamy, who has complained about clustering in Tottenham, spoke on the programme. The Geofutures analysis showed solid red in conurbations - closer analysis shows adequate evidence of clustering. Furthermore, the Geofutures evidence of disparity of betting shops in poorer areas compares to wealthier areas shows a 2.4 ratio - itself evidence of clustering."

The ABB said: "Dispatches claimed that FOBTs were causing huge increases in problem gambling. The official Gambling Commission statistics show that only four per cent of people who gamble regularly do so by a FOBT, and of those that do over half only use the machines once a month or

less. The evidence simply does not support what was claimed."

We say: "The facts the ABB state are not evidence that FOBTs do not cause problem gambling. The ABB ignored comments from Harriet Harman about the letters received on FOBT problem gambling, ignored the stories of recovering FOBT addicts such as Matt Zarb-Cousin, ignored the comment by Dr Henrietta-Bowen from the NHS Problem Gambling Clinic that over 50 per cent of problem gamblers play FOBTs and ignored the work of Professor Jim Orford of the British Gambling Prevalence Survey, who has calculated that 25 per cent of FOBT revenue is from problem gamblers."

The ABB said: "[Age and access] pass rates are now well above 70%..."

We say: "Any pass rate below 100 per cent is too low when under-18s are able to access addictive roulette content with frequency as low as 20 second between spins and the ability to wager up to £100 per spin. If the ABB is truly interested in getting out the facts about how FOBTs operate then it is easily able to do so by providing the answers to the above questions:

These high minimum estimates are all indicators of FOBT roulette problem gambling.

Yours sincerely,

DEREK WEBB  
 FOUNDER, [CAMPAIGN FOR FAIRER GAMBLING](#)

FOBT questions	Our minimum estimates
What is the average amount deposited?	£50
What percentage of turnover is on roulette?	90%
What is the average total wager per roulette spin?	£10
How many numbers per spin are bet?	19

