



# PULL THE PLUG

ON BOOKMAKERS'  
ADDICTIVE  
ROULETTE MACHINES



Dear Corby by-election candidates,

## WHERE DO YOU STAND ON ROULETTE MACHINES?

The Campaign for Fairer Gambling has spoken out in support of the Government's expected overhaul of bookmaker's roulette machines known as FOBTs (fixed odds betting terminals), as proposed by Don Foster, MP for Bath and Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Department of Communities and Local Government.

The Campaign for Fairer Gambling has been working to expose the truth on betting shop gaming machines, also known as B2 machines or colloquially as "roulette machines". Harriet Harman has already admitted that Labour "got it wrong" in respect of roulette and the Gambling Act 2005 and we are fully behind the Government's current plan to restrict them. Morally, ethically and politically we think it is the right thing to agree to. Now is the time to take a stand on roulette machines and protect the thousands of families who are victims of FOBT addiction each year.

The Campaign for Fairer Gambling recommends the number of FOBTs be reduced to one per shop; a reduction in the maximum stake from £100 to £2; for casino table game content, such as roulette, to be removed and an increase in the amount of time between spins to one minute – to prevent the fast paced, addictive rate at which FOBT gamblers lose money.

Roulette content on FOBTs is very addictive and currently enables a total wager of up to £100 nearly every 20 seconds. There are over twice as many roulette machines in poorer areas than in wealthier areas. The betting shops have become mini-casinos with 80% of shop turnover on FOBTs. By 2013 there will be over 34,000 FOBTs, with each machine sucking an average of around £50,000 per year out of its local community. Can the residents of Corby afford that in this economic downturn?

As you move into the short campaign, you need to show that you are in line with public opinion on this issue. With the media being made aware of the dangers of FOBTs, we'd like to ask where do you stand on roulette machines?  
**Please respond by Thursday 8th November.**

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Zarb-Cousin  
The Campaign for Fairer Gambling

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