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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Jenny Rathbone AM

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Dear Jenny

The First Minister has asked me to respond to your question to in Plenary on 26 June regarding town and country planning legislation for betting shops.

On 31 May I issued a consultation on proposed amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (UCO). It includes a proposal to remove betting shops from Use Class A2, which would mean planning permission would be required for a material change of use to a betting office.

The proposal responds to research which has established a causal link between the overconcentration of betting offices and a reduction in footfall, and consequent impact on the vitality and viability of town centres. The link between a concentration of betting offices and problem gambling needs further research. However, making this change to the UCO will enable future policy intervention through the planning system, should research identify public health issues which result from their concentration.

I would welcome your comments on the proposed amendments to the UCO. The consultation closes on 24 August 2018.

Regards
Lesley

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.