



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr Andrew McIntosh
Minister for the Media and Heritage
Department of Culture and Sport
2 - 4 Cockspur Street
LONDON SW1Y 5DH

Dear Andrew

I have been contacted further by constituents who are arcade owners in my constituency who raise several questions following the publication of the proposed Gambling Bill.

They believe that the Bill as it stands fails to achieve the balance of necessary safeguards both socially and economically. It benefits two new market sectors but hugely disadvantages much of the existing traditional UK market, will damage communities, limit customer choice and do nothing to regenerate areas most in need.

They further believe that gambling will increase by £1bn per annum in the UK by 2010 therefore giving the Government an extra £400 million in tax, and a growth will be seen in internet, interactive and mobile phone gambling.

This will only be at the expense of traditional family owned business, which include many seaside and inland arcades, social clubs, pubs and bingo halls.

Whilst gambling is not seen to be a major problem in the UK at present the changes could fuel so much more gambling that we will have a problem on the scale of the USA or Australia.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course and trust that you will give due consideration to these valid points.

Yours sincerely

[Handwritten signature]

ELFYN LLWYD
MP for MEIRIONNYDD NANT CONWY

6.4 04

Department for Culture, Media and Sport
DATE RECEIVED 07 APR 2004
Minister LORD MCINTOSH
Lead ELWOT GRANT (Tick)
Action Advice & Draft Reply by 23/04
GALLU Advice as Appropriate by 1
For information only
Permanent Secretary
Director ()
Director of Strat & Com
Private Secretary (G17)
Diary Secretary ()
PCU REFERENCE: 04100561