



Department  
for Culture,  
Media & Sport

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To: MPs

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Dear Colleague,

As we head into one of the biggest weeks for racing and prepare to celebrate the Cheltenham Gold Cup Centenary, I am writing to reiterate the Government's position with regard to financial risk checks following concern from members of the public that these checks will apply at racecourses.

I would like to reassure you that neither the Government nor the Gambling Commission are proposing any new or additional checks for people betting in person at racecourses or in betting shops. The proposals the Gambling Commission consulted on will apply to online gambling accounts only. They will not affect betting shops or on-course bookmakers, where financial risk checks are not required.

These new measures will replace the current piecemeal approach that exists online, which has proved challenging for operators and consumers alike.

Currently, the Gambling Commission has not set blanket requirements for online checks on customers spending over certain levels. It has however challenged the industry to prevent the egregious examples we've seen where customers are allowed to incur potential life changing losses without any checks on their circumstances or taking into account relevant indicators of harm. Operators have responded to that challenge in a variety of ways, some by taking a more risk averse approach, but that has not been specifically mandated by the Commission.

The Government recognises that on-course operators may still conduct checks for other purposes such as age and identity verification or to comply with Proceeds of Crime Act or anti-money laundering legislation. However, where these checks apply, it is my expectation that all bookmakers should be transparent about the nature of the check, including where a bet is being refused for commercial reasons.



The Government fully supports the British horseracing industry and is reviewing the horserace betting levy to ensure that the sport is appropriately funded. I am engaging with representatives of the betting and racing industries, and have encouraged them to work together to come to an agreed way forward in the best interests of the sport.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Andrew', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Rt Hon Stuart Andrew MP  
**Minister for Sport, Gambling and Civil Society**