

The Bishop of St Albans, Dr Alan Smith, has responded to the Government's announcement today of The Triennial Review of Stakes and Prizes. He said: "The Triennial Review of Stakes and Prizes has proposed a range of possible stakes for fixed-odds betting terminals. While a reduction in stakes is welcome, any stake higher than £2 does not go far enough to address the harm these machines cause to families and communities around the UK.

"In our broader response to the consultation, the Church of England will urge the Government to consider the experiences of those affected most by these machines, and to choose to lower the stake to £2.

"This will bring order to the regulatory scheme and improve our high streets. At present, FOBTs are the only betting machines on the high street which take a stake of more than £2.

"The £100 stake has been a disastrous anomaly. I urge the Government not to replace one harmful anomaly with another at the expense of the poorest and most vulnerable."

[Details of the Government consultation](#)

[More information on the Church of England General Synod motion on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals passed in February 2017](#)

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