

Law change is a gamble

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Although gambling is popular among all classes, the results of the latest report (Gambling wins in lifestyle poll, August 20) clearly indicate that lower social classes gamble more and that activities such as the lottery are regressive forms of taxation (75% of C2s gambled on the lottery; 54% of ABs).

Lower social classes anyway still spend a greater proportion of their disposable income on gambling. The findings are clear - those that can least afford to gamble are doing it the most.

Prof Mark Griffiths

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would remain the last place anyone would seek to launder money, or commit any kind of crime, given the meticulous licensing arrangements that apply to staff and operators, and the constant video surveillance, identity checks, and detailed recording of cash transactions.

The present regime for casinos was introduced in 1968, since when technology and social attitudes have changed dramatically. Evolution not revolution is proposed, to allow the same provision as in every other major European country. The regime that results from this process must be a balance between protection and permission, and we believe we are on the right course to achieving that.

David Beeton

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