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**BETTING OFFICES IN TOWN CENTRES AND THE CURRENT TECHNICAL  
CONSULTATION**

Thank you for your letter of 11 September about betting shops in town centres and the recent 'Technical Consultation on Planning'. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

The consultation closed on 29 September and we are considering the responses we have received to inform future policy development. We were keen to obtain the views of the public, practitioners and local authorities on the detail of the proposals. We have noted the comments you have made in regard to the issue of betting shops and use classes.

It is too early in the process to be able to advise you how we intend to take forward any particular proposal. We will publish a summary of the responses to the consultation in due course. We intend to implement any changes through the introduction of new legislation at the earliest opportunity, subject to the Parliamentary process.

**BRANDON LEWIS MP**