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Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

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Dr Carolyn Wilkins OBE
Chief Executive, Oldham Council
Oldham MBC
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Your ref: Council – Gambling - 20180711

13 August 2018

Dear Dr Wilkins,

Thank you for your letter of 18 July, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding the teaching of issues around gambling. I am replying as the Minister of State for School Standards.

The Department has recently announced the introduction of compulsory Health Education in all state funded schools. This will provide a strong focus on mental wellbeing. As part of this, pupils will cover content on internet safety, including identifying harmful online behavior. Pupils will be taught how to access support when they experience difficulties with harmful behavior and addiction.

In addition, whilst we are not proposing to make all of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education compulsory, we know that many schools cover content on gambling and wider topics in a broader PSHE curriculum. Many schools currently choose to teach about gambling, including its psychological and financial impact in their non-statutory PSHE curricula.

Schools can also draw on resources from organisations such as the PSHE Association which quality assure materials for schools, including teaching about the causes of gambling. There are also organisations that work with schools and children to raise awareness of the risks around gambling, including the Young Gamblers Education Trust.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,