



Department of Health

Your Ref: ND/jk/sdm.02May14

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Mr Neil Davies
Chief Executive, Medway Council
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham ME4 4TR

From Norman Lamb MP
Minister of State for Care and Support

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 4850

4 JUN 2014

02 JUN 2014

Dear Mr Davies,

Thank you for your letter of 2 May to Jeremy Hunt about gambling addiction.

I note the resolution of Medway Council passed on 24 April with regard to fixed odds betting terminals.

People with a gambling addiction can access services in primary care and secondary care, including specialised mental health and addiction services. However, the NHS has not, until recently, developed specialist treatment centres for problem gambling, as there has not been enough demand. It is also true that gambling addiction has not been treated as a medical problem in the way that substance abuse has been.

The responsibility for the provision of healthcare services lies with the local NHS. You may therefore wish to raise your concerns about gambling addiction services with NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), if you have not done so already, as it is better able to respond. The contact details are:

NHS Medway CCG
50 Pembroke Court
Chatham Maritime
Chatham ME4 4EL

Telephone: 01634 335020
Email: medway.ccg@nhs.net

I hope this reply is helpful.

NORMAN LAMB

Approved by the Minister and signed by his Private Secretary in his absence to avoid delay