

[DCMS should stand up to the Treasury and publicly assure us the FOBTs review has not been shelved – Tom Watson](#)

Tom

Watson MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, commenting

on reports that the Chancellor has scrapped the Fixed-odds betting terminals (FOBTs) review, said:

"This is an astonishing intervention by Philip Hammond.

"If the Treasury has insisted the review is shelved then the Chancellor has ridden roughshod over his Cabinet colleagues and overwhelming public evidence about the danger these highly addictive machines pose.

"British gamblers lost £1.8 billion on fixed-odds betting terminals last year alone, money that could make a better contribution to the economy if spent elsewhere.

"If Philip Hammond was so concerned about his bottom line, maybe he shouldn't have approved a £1 billion sweetheart deal with the DUP.

"The Department for Culture, Media and Sport should stand up to the Treasury and publicly assure us the review has not been shelved."