



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport

Nigel Huddleston MP

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Lord Grade of Yarmouth
House of Lords
London
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Dear Lord Grade,

Thank you for your further letter of 22 December about your Committee's recommendation on loot boxes. The government remains committed to delivering on its manifesto pledge and ensuring young and vulnerable people are protected from harm. We completed a bespoke call for evidence last year to understand the extent and nature of potential harms of loot boxes, including the links to problem gambling.

We received tens of thousands of responses, some of which were very detailed, and are working to consider them and evaluate the benefits, limitations and potential for unintended consequences of a range of potential options before proceeding. As this work is still in progress, our public-facing documents, including our evidence and response to your committee, have not focused on the details of how any one approach might be pursued. We will announce our plans in the coming months.

I am pleased that officials have had a detailed conversation with the former Clerk of your committee on the issues you raised; as I understand you have seen a summary of that discussion, I won't repeat the points on the interpretation of secondary powers in section 6 of the 2005 Gambling Act here.

You may, however, be interested to know about continuing progress in this area. For example, the Advertising Standards Authority is currently consulting on new guidance for how in-game items are advertised and sold, with a specific focus on virtual currencies and loot boxes. PEGI also now requires games which contain random purchase mechanics to be clearly labelled as such. Additionally, UKIE launched the Get Set Go! campaign, part of the Get Smart About P.L.A.Y. campaign, over the Christmas period to promote the importance of using in-game purchasing controls for parents and guardians.

Thank you again for your work in this area. There will no doubt be opportunities for further discussions in due course.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Huddleston', is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'N' and a long, sweeping tail.

Nigel Huddleston MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage