

# Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Communities

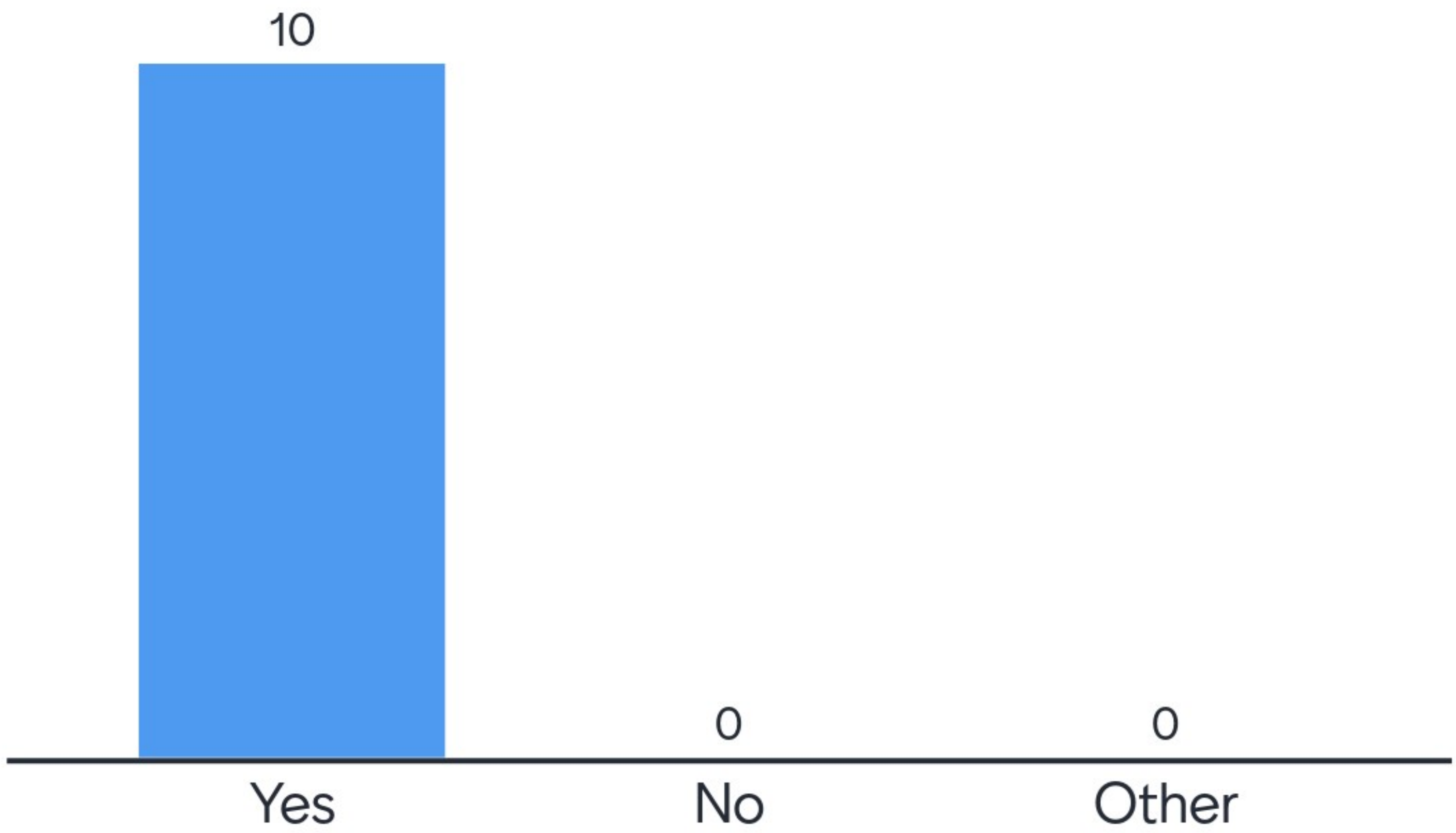
Call for Views: Young People's Event  
Wednesday, 19 January 2022



## Proposal 1: The Bill could require the Department for Communities to include certain rules in a Code of Practice

- The Bill proposes to require the Department for Communities to issue a Code of Practice for gambling facilities. The Code should describe arrangements for protecting under 18s and other vulnerable persons from exploitation and gambling-related harm.
- The Bill proposes to allow the Department to include requirements within the Code on how gambling facilities are advertised and described.

# Do you think Codes of Practice for the gambling industry are a good idea?



# What requirements could the Codes contain on how gambling facilities are advertised and described - to protect under 18s?

Being over 18 is emphasised

Same as bars - after 8pm no access to children

Not be exposed from a early age

Being exposed early can make it too attractive

Gambling adverts are mostly online and around sports games. Seems to be unregulated and makes it seem very attractive and exciting

Shield people under 18 from gambling

The way they are described really attracts under 18s - looking exciting. You should not be exposed until over 18

More control is needed on how it is advertised

Adds for gambling and betting shouldn't be advertised on tv channels that are closely related to views that are potentially under 18.

# What requirements could the Codes contain on how gambling facilities are advertised and described - to protect under 18s?

Flashing lights creates a dopamine response.  
Makes it look to exciting

Shouldn't be marketed to 18s at all, and when it is marketed there should be an absolute emphasis on over 18s

Signage is still attractive even when windows are blacked out

Under 18s have been able to enter unchallenged

Arcades have flashing lights and easy to see machines, etc. This is too attractive. Windows should be blacked out with cigarette type warnings.

Stop using children's cartoons on the machines

Machines that pump out tickets is perceived as a reward regardless of money or tickets

Machines should not portray cartoon characters as that is obviously targeting children.

# What other requirements do you think Codes of Practice should contain to protect under 18s from gambling related harm?

Everyone coming in should be carded to prove age

Everyone ID no matter what age you think a person is

There should be a mandated cool down period to prevent young people zoning out - a time limit or a maximum spend

A limit could be set on how many games you play or a maximum spend

Spending cap

A bouncer should be on the door like a nightclub, to do age checks

Too easy to keep putting money in without being aware how much has been spent. The machine could stop at a certain point and you have to manually clear an "Are you sure" question before you can continue

Door staff could stop not only children but gamblers who are known to be addicted

Money limit

# What other requirements do you think Codes of Practice should contain to protect under 18s from gambling related harm?

If you know you have your own gambling problem you could make arrangements with a bouncer to only allow you in on certain days or so many times in a week

Although some school information has been provided on alcohol addiction, gambling was not mentioned

Warnings to be included

# Proposal 2: Lower age limit for being granting permits

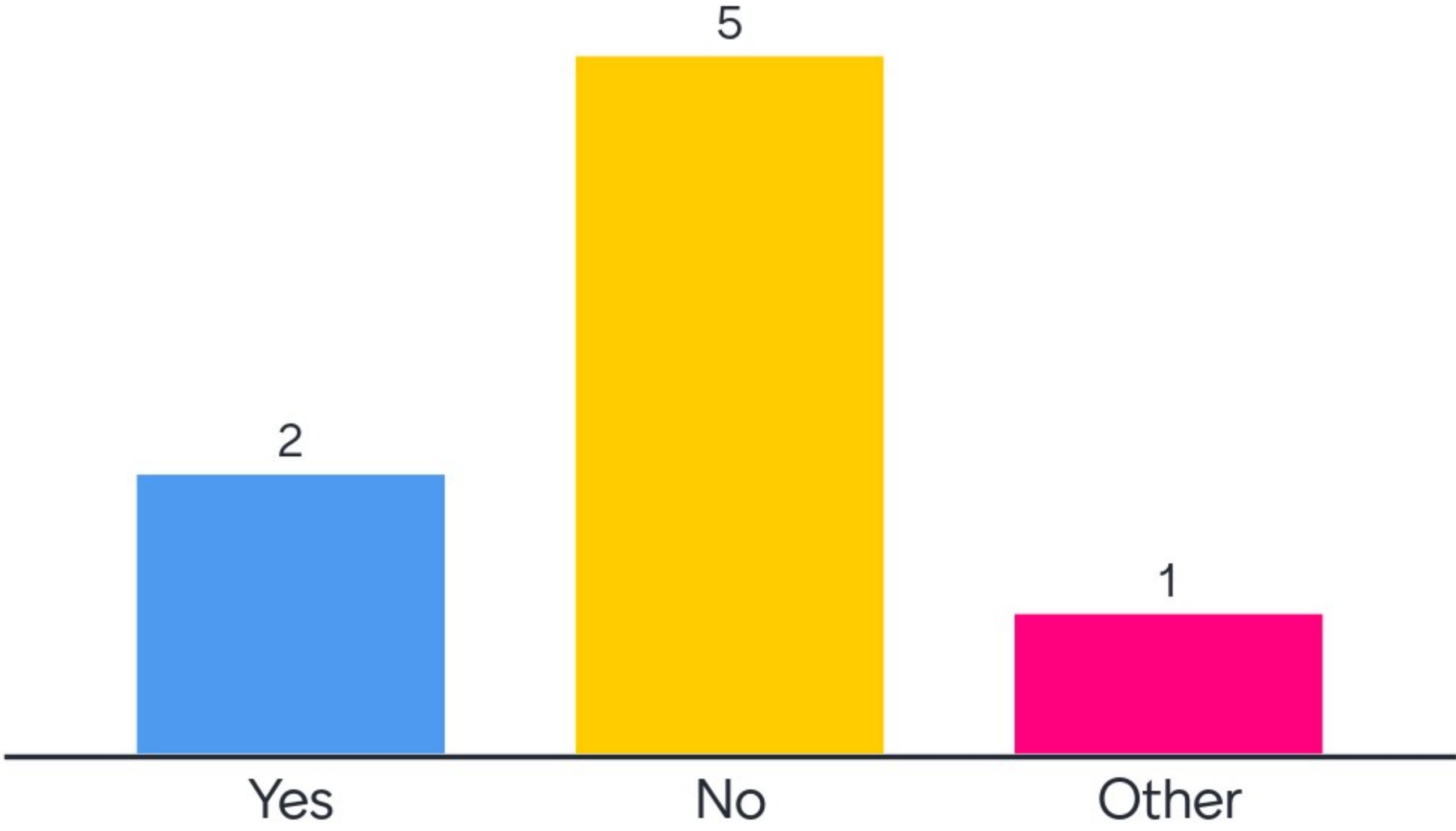
To operate certain gambling facilities you need a licence, permit or certificate (e.g. a bookmaking office licence, a bingo club licence, a gaming machine certificate etc.). Most of these are awarded by the courts.

Currently these can only be granted to those aged 21 and over. The Bill proposes to change this age limit to those age 18 and over.





Do you think lowering the age limit to be granted a licence/permit from 21 and over, to 18 and over is a good idea?



# Share your thoughts behind your answer on the age someone can get a licence or permit?

Yes - If you are 18 you can do most things so just brings it in line with other things

No - Judging maturity at 18 by student behaviour would cause concern about allowing them to run gambling businesses

No-I believe you are not mature enough to run a gambling establishment as you can get in a lot of trouble if it goes the wrong way

No - By 21 you have a better understanding of money - living costs, etc

You are more mature at 21 than 18

Could argue that running the business would let you see the risks

Yes- as you are classed as an adult and have the ability to control your finances and so as long as all laws are followed then this business opportunity shouldn't be stopped.

A family run business might wish to hand it on or expand business to include an adult child. Growing up with the industry provides more experience

Should encourage young people into entrepreneurship

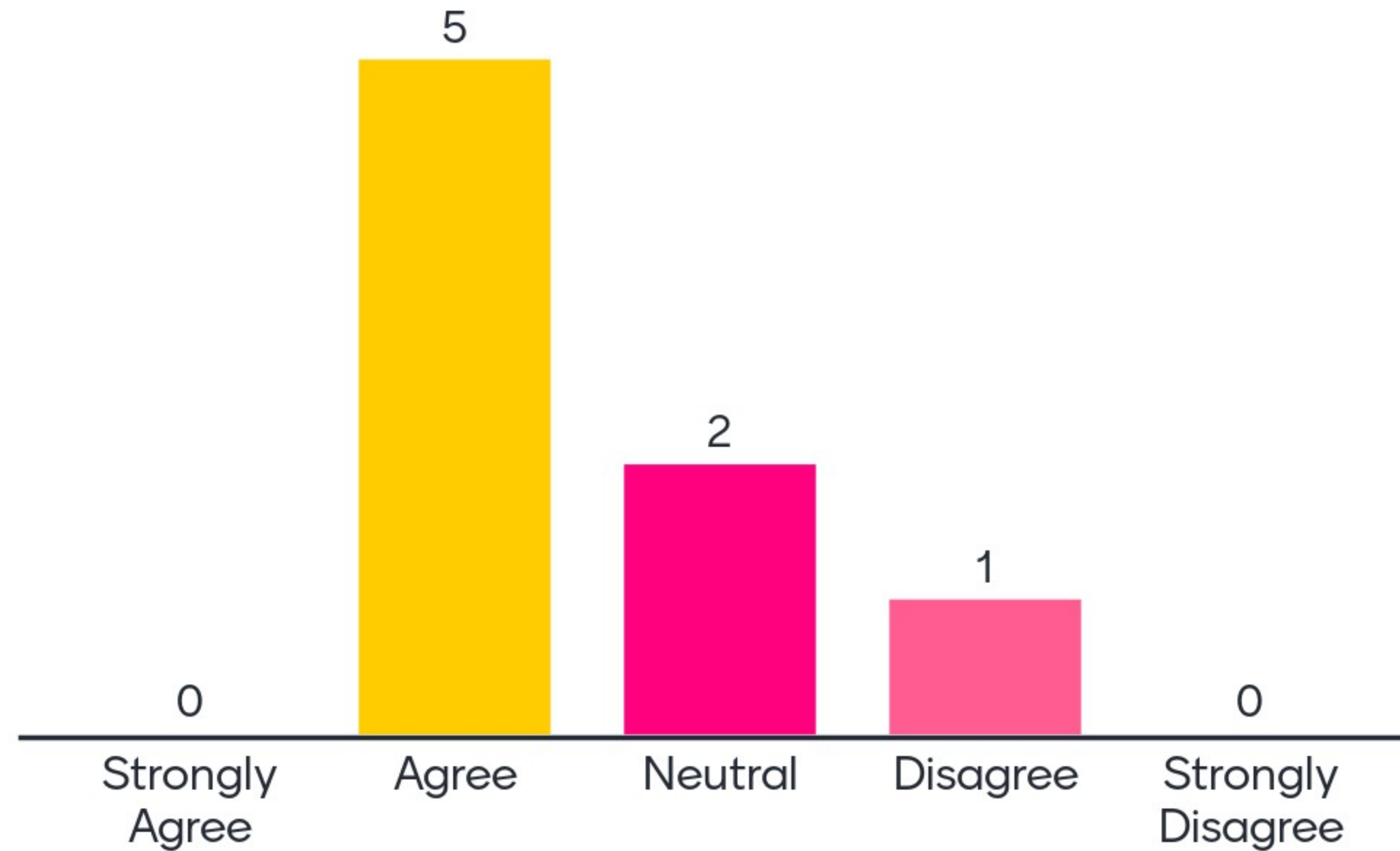
# Proposal 3: Gaming Machines

To create a new offence of “inviting, causing or permitting” a person under the age of 18 to play anything other than a lower limit gaming machine (“lower limit” means the maximum money or prize must not exceed £8).

Offence may be punishable with a fine of £5,000 or 6 month imprisonment or both.

However, there is a defence if the person can prove that there was good reason to believe the young person was over the age of 18.

Do you agree with the creation of a new offence of INVITING, CAUSING OR PERMITTING an under 18 to play any but a lower limit gaming machine ?



# What are your thoughts on this new offence of INVITING, CAUSING OR PERMITTING a person under the age of 18 to play higher limit gaming machines?

Should not be endorsed by large well known brands

Needs more enforcement of existing rules

Is the £1 for three plays being used to get round the max 30p rule?

Location of many machines in bars is suspect as it takes advantage of those under the influence of alcohol

Claw machines are illegal when they contain large money notes

The feeling of danger and excitement is attractive to young children so more warning is needed

30p is too low as an enforcement level. Too many machines would be affected. There would be no exceptions

Locations / situations are pretty influential, clearly taking advantage of people.

Using cuddly toys and cartoon branding can only really be seen to be attractive to children

# What are your thoughts on this new offence of INVITING, CAUSING OR PERMITTING a person under the age of 18 to play higher limit gaming machines?

It should be clear that certain machines are for over 18s, through perhaps stickers, as to avoid problems with families accidentally let kids use them without realising.

Although claw machines are targeted children gambling is always a long term loss - The house always wins and society must be protected

Sometimes in claw machines the child pesters for the toy, but the adult plays for the child or lets the child play to get the money

Should be a limit on how much you put in.

Was not aware that Claw machines were illegal - public should be made aware.

When you hear a win you want to keep hearing it

Everyone wanted the jackpot - huge motivator

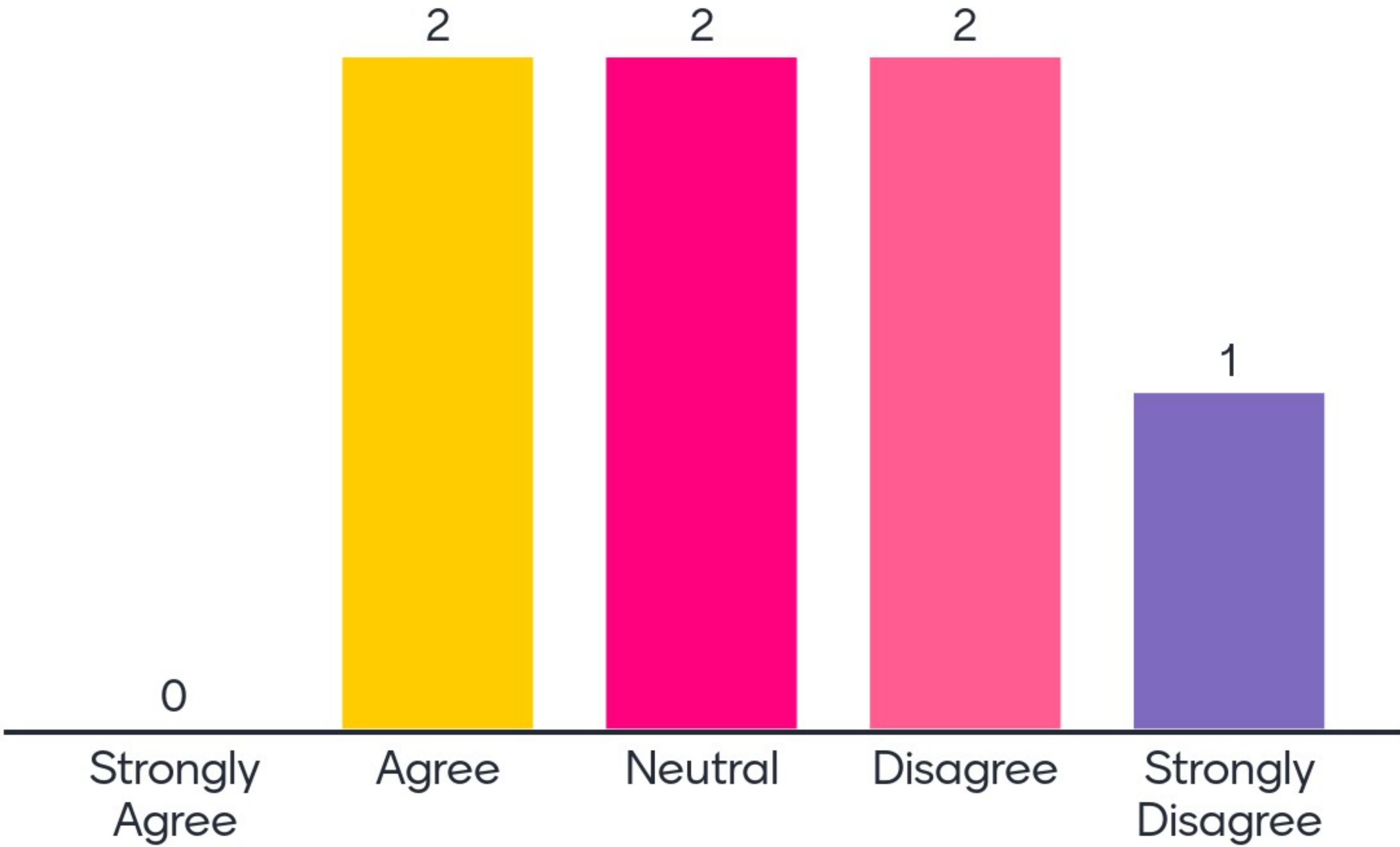
With tickets it is harder to regulate as they don't just come from one machine and they can collect them over a period and some of those machines are skill related - but games of chance should be money only and limited as higher machines

Machine manufacturers are making all the levels of machines. They may wish to introduce children young so they move on to larger machines

# What are your thoughts on this new offence of INVITING, CAUSING OR PERMITTING a person under the age of 18 to play higher limit gaming machines?

30p is far too low, it would essentially make every machine in the country illegal. It is impractical. Perhaps a limit of £3 is better

# Do you agree with the proposed punishment for this new offence - a fine of £5,000 or 6 month imprisonment or both?





# Give us your thoughts on the punishment for this new offence - a fine of £5,000 or 6 month imprisonment or both?

Punishment needs to be higher

I agree although machines should be clearly labelled as over-18

I feel like the punishment should be higher as it will not stop some people

Hold a register of machines, notice regular offenders, have points on your licence

Remove gambling advertising pitch side in sport.

I personally think the imprisonment is a bit extreme however a fine or a point system like drivers licence

Fining those who are desperate or broke may put them in a worse situation and or plunge them into deeper debt or worse, however some punishment needs to be introduced

Set up a database of licences and offenders in association with Councils

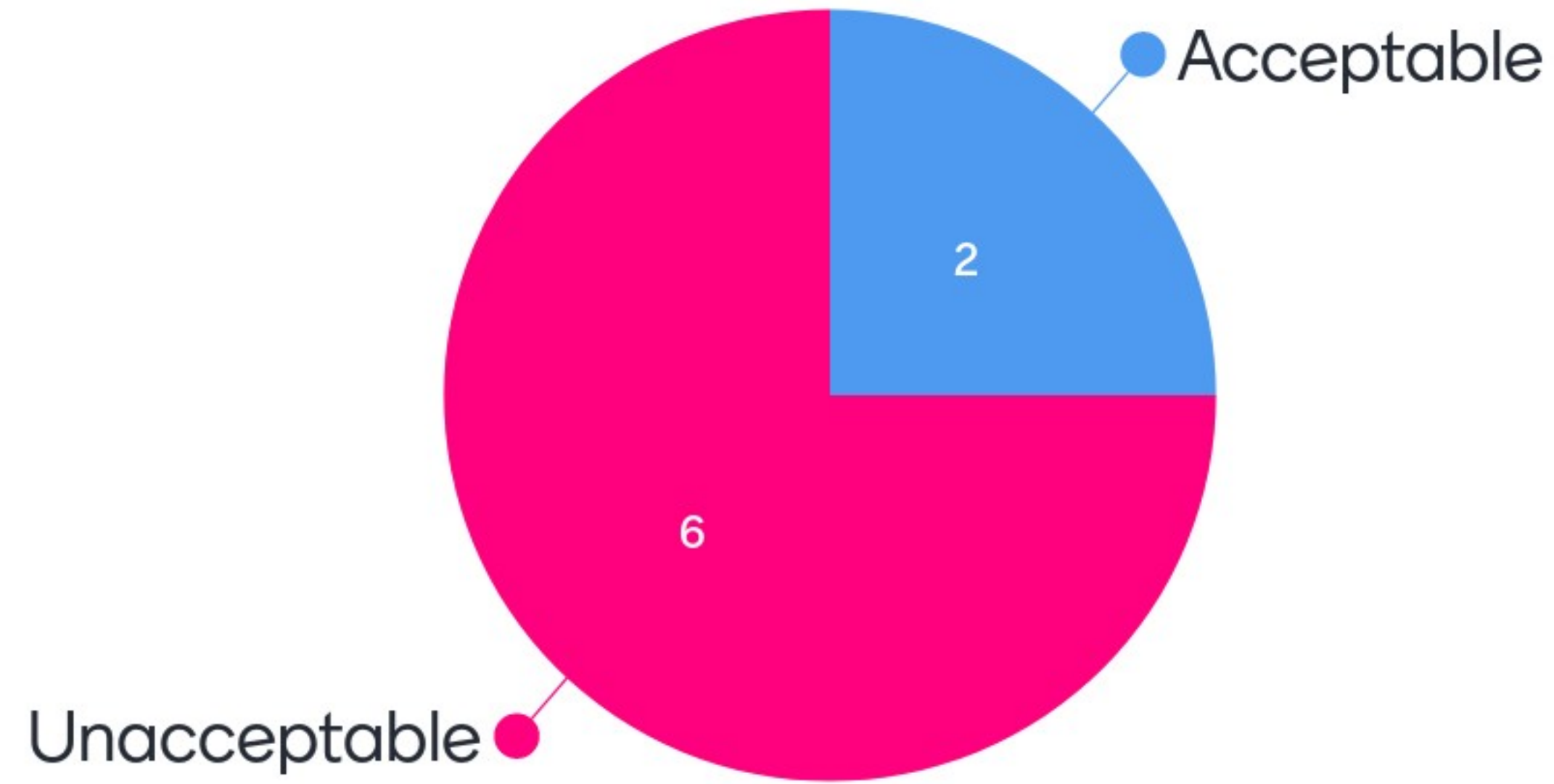
Punishing the owner holds them responsible for how they let people gamble.

# Give us your thoughts on the punishment for this new offence - a fine of £5,000 or 6 month imprisonment or both?

Imprisonment might be too extreme. Points system more plausible

Advertising gambling sponsors on sports jerseys is only put on adult sized clothes.

Do you feel it is acceptable to allow a person to use the defence that they had good reason to believe the young person was over the age of 18?



# Please comment on allowing the defence that there was good reason to believe the young person was over the age of 18?

A good reason is an ID!

What is classed as a "good reason"?

Similar problem to bars

Implement the Challenge 25 rule

Establishments are responsible for checking ids on their premises, if they fail to do this, its their own fault. Fake ids are illegal so the individuals should be fined

ID should be mandatory. Fake IDs are the responsibility of the young person and they are responsible for their actions and consequences of doing so.

When caught gambling under age they could be sent on a course?

Those doing it regularly will not listen in a course. There should be legal consequences - maybe some kind of police record

For those gambling under age - therapy - treat as an addiction

# Please comment on allowing the defence that there was good reason to believe the young person was over the age of 18?

When first caught put into counselling session - spot serious problems or stop them getting addicted early

Help should be provided, but make it obvious that repeat offending will have consequences

# Aside from these 3 proposals just discussed should government consider anything else to protect under 18s from exploitation and gambling related harm?

Help young people understand these establishments are pruly for taking your money and rarely giving wins.

Media campaign against gambling, and how it affects your financial status and the danger of addiction.

Gambling with Lives video was really effective and could be shown in all schools

School courses, in the curriculum with alcohol and drugs

Inform young people of potential outcomes BEFORE addiction gets them

I personally feel like courses should be implemented in school may that be via subjects like LLW or a couple days a year dedicated to education of addiction where days are dedicated and workshops or events so kids can learn about their harms.

Include in school work on addiction, not just drugs and alcohol

Needs to be talked about more in school - just talked about the dangers of drink, drugs and fireworks

Massive draw for young people is advertising. It is no longer allowed to glamourise cigarettes, but many gambling machines are obviously geared to draw children in

# Aside from these 3 proposals just discussed should government consider anything else to protect under 18s from exploitation and gambling related harm?

A wee small sticker on the top of the machine will not be sufficiently off putting to young people

Spreading awareness should be focused on more - include with any awareness raising on things like drugs and alcohol

Include consequences in advertising, and on TV

Taboos are not raised about gambling. It is not sufficiently talked about

Should be included with information on other addictive substances

Emphasis on real stories of how these things can affect people

Large anti media campaign on gambling