

Response

The Gaming Machine (Circumstances of Use) Regulations 2007 require that gaming machines display the 'proportion of amounts paid to use the machine that is returned by way of prizes (*described as RTP; the average return to player*) or odds of winning prizes from use of the machine'. The Commission's Gaming Machine Technical Standards support this regulation by requiring that the "theoretical target percentage return to player must be clearly displayed to the player on the machine". For example, "THIS MACHINE HAS AN AVERAGE PERCENTAGE PAYOUT OF AT LEAST (VALUE) %".

RTP is described as an average measured over a large number of games and will vary over a typical session due to normal game volatility.

It is a matter for the manufacturer to decide upon the game RTP and there is no minimum requirement but the minimum average return must be displayed to the player for the game. The value displayed must be verified either by the manufacturer or accredited test lab for categories B2, B3, B3a and B1. The game on average must not return a value less than that displayed on the machine. We do not hold records of the variation of RTP over time for different games which will vary due to normal game volatility.

The following link provides more information regarding RTP:

<http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/FAQs/Gaming-machines/return-to-player.aspx>

I hope you find this information useful.

Review of the decision

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your Freedom of Information request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to FOI Team, Gambling Commission, 4th floor, Victoria Square House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B2 4BP.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Gambling Commission. The ICO can be contacted at: The Information Commissioners' Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Request

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

In relation to B2 fixed odds betting terminals are there any rules/laws governing the percentage of money that is put into the machines that has to be paid out to gamblers? Eg for every £100 put in on average £96 might be returned to the gambler.

If there is a fixed percentage take what is it, can it be varied and do you hold records on how much it has been changed in the past?