

PE1439/F

Gambling Reform and Society Perception Group Letter of 8 February 2013

GRASP supports the aims of the petition and urges the Scottish Government to consider urgently the issues within. There is increasing evidence that Licensed Betting Shops and 'Payday loan' outlets are gaining an increased presence within communities that can arguably least afford them.

Industry representatives repeatedly cite the economic contribution that such businesses make to such communities. It is the view of GRASP, that the Betting shop industry and high interest financial service industry tend to remove money from local economies, impacting negatively upon the viability of other businesses, employment and the general social & economic fabric of those communities. We feel it is a particular cause for concern when such businesses are within close proximity of each other.

GRASP would urge the Scottish Government to act to bring about changes in planning regulations to enable local authorities to respond to the concerns of residents when they identify that such industries have a disproportionate presence.

Eugene Farrar, for GRASP 8th Feb 2013.