

Consultation name

Proposed new mandatory minimum classifications for gambling-like content in computer games

Submitted by

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Loot boxes are gambling. My son who has been addicted to online gaming since 15 and is now 24 admitted yesterday finally that he has a gambling problem. He can spend \$1000 in one week not just on loot boxes but buying skins etc. He spent \$200 last night. He has been to an addiction clinic, we have taken everything off him, we have been to hell and back but his addiction still has a grip on him. He has lost jobs over and over, he has plunged into major depression and as they say a gamers brain is the same as a heroin addict. I see more and more people not just mums and dads, but wives, families begging and pleading for help in online forums for this addiction. Nobody thinks twice about someone sitting on their phone all day but if they saw someone snorting cocaine in public they would be shocked and run in the other direction. There is no difference. We have had holes in walls, lack of hygiene, money taken, abuse when laptops etc taken away. Many parents are scared of their kids as they become very violent. The gaming companies employ psychologists to make the games addictive. My son has tried to ban himself from games but they only allow one week of ban. He tried to shut down his steam account years ago but they wouldn't let it be deleted it had to stay there for 6 months in case he wanted to game again.. So when he has got the strength to stop, the gaming companies have made it difficult. He should be able to press delete and thats it its gone. Rating games is not enough. Loot boxes and any form of gambling within games should be banned. Pay for an online game once and then no more. These companies know who is spending and will target that person over and over again. If you buy once they will try again but if you dont buy again they won't send you anything. They know where their money is coming from. Ive seen my sons phone it is non stop texts and emails saying buy this buy that you can get this and that you can go higher if you buy this. Its like chocolate for many one bite is not enough. Its time the government got serious. This is spiralling out of control.