

CORRI WILSON MP HOSTS WESTMINSTER BRIEFING ON SKILLS AND DIVERSITY IN THE BETTING INDUSTRY

Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock MP Corri Wilson hosted a breakfast briefing today looking at the promotion of diversity and skills in the betting industry. The event, organised by William Hill, was attended by MPs and Lords from across the political divide.

The main focus of the event was around tackling misperceptions of the betting industry as a predominantly male domain. William Hill employ 12,000 people across the UK and elsewhere and more than half of their staff are women. The company are keen to extend their work in encouraging diversity across the business by providing real opportunities, flexible working conditions and access to training and development.

There were also discussions around the work William Hill are doing within local communities, from fundraising initiatives to working with charities to help people into employment.

A number of concerns were raised around problem gambling, which provided the opportunity to hear about the measures the industry are taking to play their part in identifying and assisting vulnerable people whose gambling is getting out of control.

Corri Wilson MP said:

“I think it is really important to engage with the gambling industry. Every MP the length and breadth of the country has betting shops in their constituency, employing local people and contributing to the make-up of their communities. It is vital we air our concerns and have positive discussions with companies like William Hill to challenge perceptions and encourage them to step up and do the right thing.”

“The sector has come a long way over the past twenty years, and I found it helpful to hear about some of the initiatives William Hill are involved with, particularly their work with dementia awareness. While I still have concerns about the impact of betting on poverty, and how we safeguard people in vulnerable situations, I have found William Hill, and the betting industry in general, to be responsive to criticism and to be enthusiastic about looking at where it can improve.”

Nicola Frampton, Director of Retail at William Hill, said:

“We really appreciated the opportunity to talk in Parliament about the work William Hill is doing in relation to positively contributing to important matters such as contributing to communities, proactively addressing diversity and building a skilled and engaged workforce. We recognise that gambling is a matter that may divide opinion, but we are keen to work constructively with MPs and local communities.”

“Events such as this are a great way for us to provide MPs with more insight into what goes on behind the scenes, and importantly for us to better understand the views and concerns of our MPs so we can continue to evolve how we do things.”