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## PRESS STATEMENT

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### **Industry-backed charity marks big increase in treatment and research spending**

The Responsible Gambling Trust (RGT), publishing its annual report today (2 February), has highlighted its significant additional investment in treatment for problem gamblers as well as increased research into the roots of problem gambling.

The RGT is funded by industry and is dedicated to minimising the level of gambling-related harm in Britain and to ensuring that effective treatment is available to those who require it.

RGT's annual report for 2014/15 show it was able to increase spending on treatment and harm prevention to £4.8 million last year (from £3.8 million), while spending on research into problem gambling rose to £1.3 million (from £0.5 million).

Key projects supported by the RGT include:

- The National Gambling Helpline, which received over 40,000 calls in 2014/15.
- The GamCare counselling network, which worked with 5,500 people dealing with gambling-related harm and delivered nearly 45,000 counselling sessions.
- The Gordon Moody Association which delivered residential treatment for 72 people in 2014/15.
- The National Problem Gambling Clinic which assisted 853 people in 2014/15.
- The GambleAware website that had 1.8 million unique visitors in 2015.
- Funding for two new PhD students beginning in autumn 2016 with funding available for three years
- Research by the Demos think-tank into the link between online communities and gambling – the final report of which is due to be published shortly.

#### **Mark Etches, the RGT's Chief Executive, said:**

"These figures show the RGT making a significant advance in its mission to tackle gambling-related harm and I want to thank those in the industry who have given so generously to support our work."

"Our funding is making a real difference. Helping those with problems. Showing that the industry is able and willing to play a responsible role in regulating its behaviour, and tackling problems where they arise."

“Our commitment is to spend 85% of our distributed funds on treatment and harm prevention and we are confident we can grow our income towards our £7 million target and so give more back to society as a whole.”

**-ENDS-**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

- The Annual Report was launched at an event at ICE Total Gaming on 2 February 2016
- The Report is published on the RGT website
- The Responsible Gambling Trust is the leading charity in the UK committed to minimising gambling-related harm. As an independent national charity funded by donations from the gambling industry, the Responsible Gambling Trust funds education, prevention and treatment services and commissions research to broaden public understanding of gambling-related harm. The aim is to stop people getting into problems with their gambling, and ensure that those that do develop problems receive fast and effective treatment and support.
- The Responsible Gambling Trust raises a minimum of £5million each year from the gambling industry operating in Britain within a voluntary (donation based) system and funds research, education, prevention and treatment services. Funding priorities are guided by the national strategy advised by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The latest strategy was published in December 2012.