
PRESS STATEMENT

Reference	0175
Release date	10 December 2015 - for immediate release
Images available	Responsible Gambling Trust logo

Responsible Gambling Trust publishes study of gaming machine play in casinos

The Responsible Gambling Trust has today published an evaluation of the impact of regulatory changes to stakes and prize limits on gaming machines in casinos.

The research was a collaborative project between David Forrest of the University of Liverpool, Ian McHale of the University of Salford and Heather Wardle of NatGen Social Research. They examined the impact of changes to stake and prize limits for category B1 gaming machines in British casinos. In 2014 maximum stakes were raised from £2 to £5 and maximum prizes from £4,000 to £10,000.

Researchers were given access to data held by The Rank Group Plc, which operates Grosvenor Casinos Ltd, the largest casino operator in Great Britain. The data showed a 10% increase in the amount staked in B1 machines each week, largely because of an increase in the average stake per spin, and an associated uplift in weekly house win from B1 machines of about 7%. Whilst on average, spending increases were higher than average among those living in more deprived areas the data provided evidence that these customers appeared to be switching spending from tables to machines in response to higher stake and prize limits on machines.

The findings of the research were first presented at the Responsible Gambling Trust's annual harm minimisation conference at the King's Fund on Wednesday 9 December 2015.

Marc Etches, Chief Executive of the Responsible Gambling Trust, said:

"A change in regulations such as the uplift in stakes and prizes for category B1 machines presents an opportunity for researchers to gather new comparative data and better understand the way people play these machines. The researchers are hopeful that their findings will not only add to our understanding of B1 machines but also people's behaviour when they play table games and on other categories of machine. I am grateful to Rank for participating in this study. Researchers noted that their readiness to share data was encouraging."

-ENDS-

Contact:

Paul Scaping

Bell Pottinger

Direct line: +44 (0)20 3772 2626

Mobile: +44 (0)7795 971022

NOTES TO EDITORS

- 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 £5 million 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.
- The research has been published at www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/Research-Publications-new