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**PRESS STATEMENT**

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Images available	Responsible Gambling Trust logo Tracey Crouch MP addressing the conference

**Gambling Minister warns that "goodwill alone" will not create a more responsible gambling industry**

Tracey Crouch MP, the Minister for Sport, Tourism & Heritage has delivered the keynote address at the Responsible Gambling Trust's third annual harm minimisation conference at the King's Fund, London.

Ms Crouch used her speech to pay tribute to the good work of both RGT and the gambling industry in working in conjunction with the government to minimise gambling-related harm, but she warned delegates from the gambling industry that "goodwill alone" would not be enough.

Her speech followed a call to the industry, from the charity's Chairman Neil Goulden, to "up their game" and increase voluntary donations to the RGT. RGT requests that industry donates 0.1% of Gross Gambling Yield to help fund education, treatment and research to minimise gambling-related harm. Latest Gambling Commission statistics show that this should total approximately £9 million per annum. Voluntary donations to RGT totalled £6.5 million in 2014/15.

**Tracey Crouch MP, the Minister with responsibility for gambling, said:**

"There is much that we can feel good about: A united endeavour between industry, regulator and government who work together to provide a safe and fun leisure industry. Goodwill alone however will not get us anywhere fast. The invaluable work of the RGT is to steer attention and resources where it can be of the most benefit in the shortest time possible."

**Neil Goulden, Chairman of the Responsible Gambling Trust, told the conference:**

"Can I leave the following message for our industry colleagues – RGSB has set an ambitious programme of work for research, harm prevention and treatment and much depends on the industry contributing the amount requested by RGT - just 1p in every £10 of gross profit. Many operators are generous and go beyond what we ask but it is true to say a large number of operators contribute nothing and others short change the target. So today I am calling upon the trade associations, under the Industry Group for Responsible Gambling umbrella, to encourage operators to up their game in support of RGT. With your help, RGT has achieved a lot, but we have an ambitious agenda before us and we will need your support even more in the three years ahead."

**-ENDS-**

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**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.
- RGT receives no public funding. In order to fund an ambitious range of education, treatment and research work, RGT relies on donations from the gambling industry. Since April 2009, the gambling industry has voluntarily contributed over £25 million to fund research, education and treatment services in Britain and the RGT's supporters include both British land-based and global online organisations that provide services to the British market. RGT requests that all businesses that derive income from gambling - whether as an operator or provider of services or products to operators - make a donation and help the charity to achieve its fundraising targets.
- RGT asks all businesses to consider donating a minimum of 0.1% of gross gambling profit. "Gross Gambling Profit" means all gross gambling related income, gross win or gross gaming yield, i.e., total customer stakes less total customer winnings plus fees, commissions, rake, royalty, profit share or other income from gambling activity (all calculated before the deduction of gaming duty and costs of the operation).
- The agenda for the third annual harm minimisation conference on 9 December 2015 is available at [www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk](http://www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk).
- The speech delivered by the Minister, Tracey Crouch MP is available here: <http://www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/news/Announcement-10>
- The speech delivered by Gambling Commission Chief Executive Sarah Harrison is also available here: [www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/pdf/Speeches/RGT-conference-December-2015.pdf](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/pdf/Speeches/RGT-conference-December-2015.pdf)
- 703 organisations have donated to RGT in 2015/16. A full list of donors is available here: <http://www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/2015-16-Supporters>