
PRESS STATEMENT

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Responsible Gambling Trust issues public tender for gambling-related harm research

The Responsible Gambling Trust (RGT) has issued an open invitation to tender for a new programme of research into 'Gambling-related harm: what does this term involve and how best to measure and account for it in Great Britain?' The programme provides total funding for relevant research projects of up to £80,000 to be delivered over a period of 12 months.

There are two principle objectives. The first is an examination of what is meant by gambling-related harm, what kinds of harms people experience and who experiences them. This is likely to include both secondary and primary research. The second is to understand how these harms can be measured and monitored in Great Britain in order that attempts to minimise gambling-related harm might be more accurately evaluated.

This invitation to tender has been issued publicly to ensure that all capable parties are given the opportunity to participate in the programme of research. Tenders will be reviewed and funding awarded by the RGT's Research Committee, chaired by its senior independent trustee, Professor Jonathan Wolff. The two-stage research programme is expected to begin in January 2016 with completion expected by December 2016.

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

"Recent thinking in this field has turned attention from problem gambling to the wider question of gambling-related harm. In line with the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board's interest in this concept, RGT is keen to enable ground-breaking research into this important question. We also expect this work will help to inform discussions around gambling-related harm as a public health issue."

Professor Jonathan Wolff, Chair of the Responsible Gambling Trust's Research Committee, said:

"All research is commissioned by Independent Trustees sitting on the Responsible Gambling Trust's Research Committee in order to ensure that it is free from the potential for industry influence. The Research Committee is keen to receive proposals from anyone with relevant expertise and has issued this public tender to ensure we reach the widest possible audience."

-ENDS-

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- The tender is published online at www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/research.
- 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.
- All RGT research activity is wholly the responsibility of its Research Committee, which consists of its five independent trustees together with observers from government, the Gambling Commission and its independent advisers, the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board. This arrangement ensures that those trustees who may have a direct interest in any research outcomes are entirely excluded from directing or otherwise influencing any research activity that RGT undertakes to commission. RGT's five independent trustees are:

Jonathan Wolff, Professor of Philosophy and Dean of Arts and Humanities at University College London;

Chris Brady, Professor of Management Studies and co-director of the Centre for Sports Business at the University of Salford;

Annette Dale-Perera, a Home Officer advisor on the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and former Strategic Director of Addiction and Offender Care at CNWL NHS Foundation Trust;

Alan Jamieson, former Deputy CEO of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy and former Director of the National AIDS Helpline;

Patrick Sturgis, Professor of Research Methodology and Director of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods.