

PRESS RELEASE

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Responsible Gambling Trust announces second Harm Minimisation Conference

The Responsible Gambling Trust (RGT) is holding its second annual 'harm minimisation' conference on **Wednesday 10 December 2014**. While the overall theme of the conference remains 'harm minimisation in gambling', this year the programme will focus on the independent research into gaming machines located in licensed betting offices that RGT commissioned with a consortium of researchers including NatCen Social Research and Featurespace.

The research has been specifically directed at two questions posed by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board, advisors to the Gambling Commission:

Can we distinguish between harmful and non-harmful gaming machine play?

If we can, what measures might limit harmful play without impacting on those who do not exhibit harmful behaviours?

Marc Etches, RGT's Chief Executive said: "The government, the gambling regulator and the industry all asked us to provide wholly independent research using industry-held data to help inform policy decisions and we will shortly deliver a ground-breaking package of research that we believe will significantly enhance our understanding of these machines and the way people use them. The research is complex, there is a lot of it and will require careful thought and consideration by all concerned. The conference provides an opportunity for the research team to present their work and explain their findings in their own words."

RGT will publish a package of research reports on Monday 1 December and the conference hosted by Liz Barclay, broadcaster and former trustee of RGT, will be helpful in informing the direction of future research and policy development as well as industry practice in relation to promoting player protection and responsible gambling behaviour.

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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. (www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk).
- 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.