
PRESS STATEMENT

Reference	0152
Release date	18 July 2014 - for immediate release
Available for interview	Marc Etches, Chief Executive
Images available	Responsible Gambling Trust logo

Survey finds gambling industry acknowledge need for strong exclusion standards for problem gamblers

A survey of gambling operators and problem gambling treatment providers has shown a consensus regarding the priorities for improving self-exclusion as a harm minimisation tool to support gamblers.

The survey, which reviews the academic evidence regarding self-exclusion as well as surveying perspectives from industry and treatment providers, has been published today by the Responsible Gambling Trust. It found that the majority of respondents from gambling businesses and treatment providers believed the industry needs to ensure self-exclusion is irrevocable within the agreed period, improve information sharing between gambling operators, improve the standard of training for staff, and ban marketing to problem gamblers who have excluded themselves.

The survey was conducted by the Self-Exclusion Group of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board and the Responsible Gambling Trust. They spoke to around 30 stakeholders in the gambling industry and amongst gambling treatment professionals and asked them how effective self-exclusion has been as a form of harm minimisation in gambling. The report is expected to inform the forthcoming review by the Gambling Commission of its 'license conditions and codes of practice' (LCCP).

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

"This project shows that the gambling industry has the appetite to look at itself and ask what more it can do to improve the way it looks after problem gamblers. The industry now needs to develop the technology needed to enforce self-exclusion, look into what legal restrictions there may be, and better understand the most effective methods of self-exclusion. We have identified these areas as research priorities and it is for the gambling industry to show their continued commitment by implementing the highest standards in their respective codes of conduct."

-ENDS-

Contact:

Paul Scaping
Bell Pottinger
Direct line: +44(0)20 7861 2408

Mobile: +44 (0)7795 971022
pscaping@bell-pottinger.com

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 £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.
- The survey is summarised in 'Self-Exclusion as a Gambling Harm Minimisation Measure in Great Britain: An Overview of the Academic Evidence and Perspectives from Industry and Treatment Professionals'. It is available online at:
<http://www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/Research-Publications>.