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**PRESS STATEMENT**

Reference	0145
Release date	12 December 2013 – for immediate release
Available for interview	Marc Etches, Chief Executive
Images available	Responsible Gambling Trust logo

**Responsible Gambling Trust hails the success of Britain’s first ever Harm Minimisation conference**

The Responsible Gambling Trust yesterday (Wednesday 11 December 2013) hosted its first ever Harm Minimisation conference at the King’s Fund in London.

The conference was the first of its kind in the United Kingdom, bringing together government, academia, industry and responsible gambling campaigners to review and discuss existing understanding of harm minimisation in gambling and explore future directions for research and policy. International experts included Professor Alex Blaszczynski (University of Sydney), Dr Per Binde (University of Gothenberg) and Professor Robert Williams (University of Lethbridge, Alberta Canada).

Marc Etches, Responsible Gambling Trust’s Chief Executive said:

“I was delighted that such a high calibre of speakers agreed to attend our first ever ‘harm minimisation’ conference. The day was packed with fascinating discussions and presentations and will have been an eye opener for many. It is an important element of an on-going process of knowledge building in relation to harm minimisation in gambling. I am grateful to IGT, The Rank Group, Microgaming, Paddy Power and Joelson Wilson for their financial support for what I hope will be the first of many ‘harm minimisation’ conferences.”

Neil Goulden, Chairman of the Responsible Gambling Trust said:

“The Responsible Gambling Trust intends to continue to be the leading voice for responsible gambling in Britain. This conference demonstrates the good that can come from getting industry, the government, academia and campaigners in one room to seriously discuss the harm that some people experience from problem gambling and how to minimise it. Economic growth and public protection are not mutually exclusive concepts and we can, and should, be able to deliver both in a social democracy.”

**-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. ([www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk](http://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.
- The Responsible Gambling Trust's Harm Minimisation conference was held on Wednesday 11 December 2013 at the King's Fund, London. The conference was chaired by Liz Barclay, Senior Independent Trustee and Chair of the Research Committee of the Responsible Gambling Trust. The conference programme is available online here: <http://bit.ly/1hOtVWd>
- All conference attendees were given a copy of the special issue of the Journal of Gambling Business and Economics edited by Dr Jonathan Parke and Marc Etches, 'Consumer behaviour and harm minimisation in relation to gaming machines'. The journal contains five papers setting the context for the Responsible Gambling Trust's on-going programme of research into gaming machine behaviour and is available online here: <http://www.ubplj.org/index.php/jgbe/index>