

PRESS RELEASE

Reference	0141
Release date	3 October 2013 – for immediate release
Available for interview	Marc Etches, Chief Executive

Responsible Gambling Trust announces new Director of Fundraising

The Responsible Gambling Trust has appointed Alan Armstrong as its new Director of Fundraising. Alan, who has spent 30 years working in the British gambling industry, replaces Karen Churches who stepped down in early September.

Having started his career as a casino croupier in 1979, Alan has spent the best part of three decades working across a number of roles for leading companies within the gambling industry including, Pleasurama plc, Mecca plc and more recently for Grosvenor Casinos and the Rank Group plc.

Marc Etches, Chief Executive of the Responsible Gambling Trust said: "We are delighted to have Alan join us. He is well known to very many in the British gambling industry and we are confident that his knowledge and experience will take our fundraising to the next level."

"Last year we raised £5.7million from the British gambling industry. We have reached £5million in the first six months of this year and our target is £6million. However, if we are to sustain this level of fundraising and achieve our long-term aspiration of raising it to £7million annually, we need to be more proactive in our approach and Alan will help us to be just that."

Alan Armstrong said: "I am very pleased to have joined the Responsible Gambling Trust. I have enjoyed a long and successful career in the industry and now I want to use the knowledge, experience and personal network that I have developed over the last 30 years for the benefit of those that the Responsible Gambling Trust is seeking to help."

Alan began his new role on 1 October.

-ENDS-

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- Alan Armstrong started his career as a casino croupier in 1979 and has spent 34 years working in the British gambling industry for Pleasurama plc, Mecca plc and Rank Group plc. From 1996 to 2001, he was Compliance Director for Grosvenor Casinos before spending 11 years as Compliance and Development Director firstly for Rank Group Gaming and then Rank Group plc. In these roles he was responsible for Group public affairs, responsible gambling policy, parliamentary contacts, reputational integrity & regulatory compliance, corporate sponsorship due diligence, company secretariat, global insurance, estates management, property acquisitions, design & development, internet gaming development, licensing, anti-money laundering policy, internal audit and trade association relationships.
- 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.
- The Responsible Gambling Trust understands the need to generate widespread trust and credibility in its independence and integrity, particularly in view of the investment of both fundraising and commissioning functions in a single, industry-funded body. The Responsible Gambling Trust has put in place robust governance arrangements including:
 - Appointing wholly independent trustees
 - Inviting the Government, the Gambling Commission and the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) to observe Responsible Gambling Trust board and committee meetings
 - Publishing details of how funds will be distributed each year guided by the RGSB's three-year rolling strategy as endorsed by the Gambling Commission
 - Ensuring research is commissioned via an independent research committee in consultation with the RGSB
 - Seeking advice from external experts in collaboration with the RGSB