
PRESS STATEMENT

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Images available	Responsible Gambling Trust logo

Responsible Gambling Trust response to articles in The Times

"The Times has today published an article which states the Responsible Gambling Trust "faces an investigation by the Charity Commission". In fact no complaints have been made to the Commission, though the RGT has, today, formally notified the Commission of the article.

"The RGT has robust procedures in place and we are a fully independent charity committed to minimising gambling-related harm. Our research committee is chaired by Professor Jo Wolff and oversees all research matters. Industry-related trustees are not involved in that process.

"The issue of whether Fixed-Odds Betting Terminals are licenced is ultimately a matter for Parliament. What the RGT does is commission research into the causes of gambling-related harm and how best to prevent harm and mitigate its affects when it happens. We absolutely reject any suggestion that we have ignored or artificially minimised any source of harm.

"The Times repeats the accusations of the 'Campaign for Fairer Gambling' – a campaign which is itself funded by money which ultimately comes from gambling. The accusations are unspecific and essentially amount to saying that the RGT is funded by the gambling industry. That is not a secret and indeed the growing support we have received from the industry has meant we have been able to significantly increase our funding for research and treatment.

"What is utterly false is any suggestion that our funding sources compromise our independence. They do not and no evidence has been presented otherwise.

"We will always co-operate fully with the Charity Commission but we do not anticipate that the Commission will instigate any formal investigation because RGT is fully compliant with charity law."

-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.
- 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.
- UPDATED: The Charity Commission has this afternoon received a complaint about RGT which it is now assessing.
- Details of the procedure for reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission are here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/alert-on-reporting-serious-incidents-rsi>