

# GambleAware

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

### GambleAware and Responsible Gambling Week

**London, 12 October 2017:** GambleAware welcomes the gambling industry's "Responsible Gambling Week". This is the first time the five main sectors have come together for such an initiative and GambleAware is pleased with the attention this will bring to the risks presented by any form of gambling.

GambleAware's aim is to help all those who suffer gambling-related harm through research, education and treatment. The obvious place to find those who suffer such harm is in gambling venues, or on gambling websites. As an independent charity, GambleAware will always "say what we see" and challenge the industry when the evidence presented by GambleAware [research](#) exposes any gaps or failings.

A recent GambleAware report highlighted a disconnect between the safeguarding messages operators were promoting and what customers understood them to mean. The phrase "Responsible Gambling" is still widely used across the industry, and whether intended or not this suggests a focus on the individual. However, it is important that sufficient attention is given to gambling environments and products, in line with a public health approach to reducing the harm caused by gambling. The line "socially responsible gambling" shifts the focus beyond the individual, and into the remit of Government and the industry. This broader message is encouraged and reflected in GambleAware's existing [research programme](#).

Marc Etches, CEO of GambleAware said:

"["RG Week"](#) is a test for the industry's commitment for putting customer welfare ahead of short term profits. We look forward to seeing the results of the week's impact, and hope the industry will build on this exercise as we continue to raise awareness of the risks of gambling and the advice and treatment available through [begambleaware.org](http://begambleaware.org) all year round."

## **-ENDS-**

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## **NOTES**

- Details of the industry's Responsible Gambling Week can be found online here: <http://www.responsiblegamblingweek.co.uk/>
- Guided by the [National Responsible Gambling Strategy](#), GambleAware is an independent charity tasked to fund research, education and treatment services to help minimise gambling-related harm in Great Britain.
- GambleAware is a commissioning and grant-making body, not a provider of services. The charity's strategic aim is to broaden public understanding of gambling-related harm as a public health issue and to help those that do develop problems get the support and help that they need quickly and effectively. For more information, please go to: <http://about.gambleaware.org/>
- GambleAware's programme of treatment, education, harm prevention and research is guided by the National Responsible Gambling Strategy, which is defined by the independent Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware work together under the terms of an agreement in place since 2012: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1216/statementofintent.pdf>. Research is conducted under the terms of a 'Research Commissioning and Governance Procedure' agreed in 2016 by the RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1270/research-commissioning-and-governance-procedure-may-2016-final.pdf>.
- GambleAware requires a minimum of £10 million annually to deliver its current responsibilities, and looks to all those that profit from commercial gambling to support the charity. This donation-based system was proposed under the Gambling Act 2005 and is prescribed by the Gambling Commission in its Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice. The RGSB endorsed GambleAware's £10m funding goal in January 2017: <http://www.rgsb.org.uk/press-releases/responsible-gambling-strategy-board-publishes-assessment-of-the-quantum-of-funding-required-to-deliver-the-national-responsible-gambling-strategy.html>
- GambleAware funds the *Gordon Moody Association*, the *NHS National Problem Gambling Clinic*, *GamCare* and a network of charities across Great Britain to provide a full range of free treatment for problem gamblers and support for those affected by them. GambleAware also runs the website **BeGambleAware.org** which helps 2.7 million visitors a year, and supports the **National Gambling Helpline – 0808 8020 133**