

GambleAware

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ANNOUNCEMENT

GambleAware responds to Government Gambling Review

London, 31 October 2017: GambleAware's Chief Executive, Marc Etches, has responded to the Government's review of gambling machines and social responsibility that was published at 7am this morning.

Marc Etches, CEO of GambleAware said:

"There was a concern this review would focus narrowly on FOBT stakes, so we are pleased to see the government has acted boldly and taken a more holistic view of the risks attached to all forms of gambling, including online which will soon be 50% of the market."

ON STAKES

"GambleAware supports the proposed consultation on reducing stake limits in order to reduce overall losses, which is backed by the latest research. GambleAware is concerned with the impact of this, too often hidden, addiction on individuals and their families. Last year, we treated 8,000 people struggling with gambling addiction – just 2% of those with a problem, which is why more needs to be done."

ON ADVERTISING

"We should treat gambling related harm as a public health problem, like alcohol or obesity, working on prevention as well as treatment. We're delighted to be asked to lead a new, independent, multi-million-pound campaign to help raise awareness of the risks and the free help available. We need to get better at spotting problems before they reach crisis point, protect children with better education about risks and equip industry staff with the confidence to intervene and support vulnerable customers."

ON FUNDING TREATMENT

"With 430,000 problem gamblers in need of treatment, we need all those who profit from gambling to fund our work. The current voluntary system is not delivering. That's why

GambleAware is calling for a statutory levy, something we're pleased to see the Government considering if the industry does not step up its efforts.”

FREE HELP

“If you are worried about your own or a loved one’s gambling, go to BeGambleAware.org or call 0808 8020133.”

-ENDS-

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NOTES

- 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**