# Minutes of the Research Committee

**DATE**  
Thursday 2 June 2016

**TIME**  
2.00pm – 4.00pm

**VENUE**  
Mishcon de Reya LLP, Africa House, 70 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6AH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENT</th>
<th>INITIALS</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annette Dale-Perera</td>
<td>ADP</td>
<td>Trustee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Jamieson</td>
<td>AJ</td>
<td>Trustee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jo Wolff</td>
<td>JW</td>
<td>Trustee/Chair</td>
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**IN ATTENDANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Initials</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duncan Booth</td>
<td>DB</td>
<td>DCMS observer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iain Corby</td>
<td>IC</td>
<td>Director of Operations and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Denchie</td>
<td>JD</td>
<td>Research and Commissioning Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marc Etches</td>
<td>MWE</td>
<td>Chief Executive (by phone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anja Kimberley</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>Gambling Commission observer (from item 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Simpson</td>
<td>NS</td>
<td>Operations Manager - Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Wardle</td>
<td>HW</td>
<td>RGSB observer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Watkin</td>
<td>JWa</td>
<td>RGSB observer</td>
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1. Welcome and apologies
JW welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies were received from Chris Brady, Patrick Sturgis and David Miers (RGSB observer).

2. Declarations of interest
ADP declared a conflict of interest for a PhD applicant, having worked with one of the researchers supporting the application.
HW declared involvement in two ongoing RGT research projects, both of which are due to be completed in 2016. HW will receive funding from the Wellcome Trust and will not bid for any RGT funding in the next three years.

3. Minutes of the Research Committee meeting held on 7 April 2016
The minutes of the Research Committee meeting held on 7 April 2016 were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising
Policy impacts of completed research – the Research Committee recommended that RGSB regularly review the findings of RGT-commissioned research in terms of policy impacts.
All other matters arising at the 7 April meeting have been completed or are considered under subsequent agenda items.

5. RGT research activities update
The Committee reviewed the paper as presented.

5.1 LBO gaming machine data – RGSB is preparing a project brief, which will be reviewed/accepted by the management team. Concerns about possible misuse of the research in a null hypothesis scenario were noted.

5.2 Literature review of children and young people’s gambling – the literature review has now been published. Concerns about the quality of the report have been raised by an RGT Board member.

5.3 Research into problem gambling in licenced bingo premises in Britain to inform practical applications of harm minimisation – it was noted that the final report is being peer reviewed.

5.4 Cost to government of problem gambling – IPPR have now been commissioned to undertake this work.

5.5 Using grounded theory to examine problem gambling and harm minimisation opportunities for remote gambling – HW is no longer involved in the project team for this research.
5.6 **Gambling-related harm** – PwC will provide a revised proposal and a steering committee with RGSB representation is being established.

5.7 **Responsible gambling industry initiatives** – both bid teams will be interviewed by representatives of the Project Forum, the Gambling Commission, and HW. Concerns were raised by RGSB about the lack of end user experience and capacity for either organisation to deliver on staff training.

5.8 **Secondary analysis into B2/B3 gaming machines research** – an update was provided on the launch event in the House of Commons. It was suggested that further events could be held in the Scottish and Welsh Assemblies.

**Action:** NS to distribute press statements relating to the secondary analysis research to the Committee.

6. **PhD call 2016**

The paper was reviewed as presented. Suggestions were made to: convene a forum to bring students together; establish a mentor scheme; arrange for the students to meet with RGSB/Gambling Commission/DCMS representatives where appropriate.

The Research Committee agreed with the recommendations to fund the following three PhD students:

- Elena Gomis; University of East London. £58,790;
- Lucy Pointon; Sheffield Hallam University. £28,833;
- Glen Dighton; Swansea University. £59,120.

**Action:** The PhD students will be invited to present their proposals to the Research Committee.

**Action:** It was agreed that a fourth applicant, who is a high quality candidate, will be encouraged to seek match-funding and to put forward an alternative proposal better suited to her interests. The Committee will then consider whether to recommend to the full Board that this student is funded, subject to availability of additional funds.

7. **Young people, gambling and gambling-related harm proposals**

The paper was reviewed as presented. It was noted that management are discussing the Trust’s VAT situation with auditors, to ascertain if VAT should be paid on research projects.

The Research Committee approved awarding tenders for the ‘young people, gambling and gambling-related harm’ workstream to the following organisations:

- University of Lincoln. £28,697;
- Ipsos MORI. £144,950 & VAT.

It was agreed that, if further funding is available once the VAT situation is clarified, the proposal from Ecorys will be considered again.
8. **Research governance and commissioning procedure**

The recently-published ‘research governance and commissioning procedure’ was noted.

9. **Proposal to recruit a Director of Research**

The Research Committee agreed that a Director of Research should be recruited to assist with the growing body of research commissioned by the Trust. It was suggested that experience in the gambling field is not necessary in order for research quality assurance to be undertaken.

The Research Committee recommended that MWE provides the Committee with a role specification for a Director of Research. The role specification and package will then be agreed by the Remuneration Committee and the full Board.

10. **Review of RGT research**

It was agreed that the Director of Research, once recruited, should lead on a review of RGT research.

11. **AOB**

**Costing of Strategy 2016/19**

*Action:* MWE to provide Committee members with RGSB’s costings of RGT research activities from the Strategy 2016/19.

**University of Oxford proposal**

*Action:* IC to provide Committee members with an outline proposal from the University of Oxford’s applied mathematics community, possibly to then be considered under the forthcoming call for ‘innovative’ research projects.

**Next Research Committee meeting**

*Action:* NS to reschedule the date of next meeting to 29 September.