



Responsibility In Gambling Trust

Research, Education and Treatment: The New Fundraising Structure

The announcement by the Minister that the voluntary donation system of funding Research, Education and Treatment for problem gamblers will remain comes as a result of some extensive restructuring of the organisations responsible.

Eighteen months ago, a review was initiated by the Gambling Commission into how the provision of Research into, Education about and Treatment of problem gambling should be structured and funded in the UK. In October 2008, the Research, Education and Treatment (RET) Review was published which recommended the following:

The setting up of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) who will decide on the structure and priorities for handling the three areas. RGSB will have expert panels on each of the subjects who will give their advice on how this should be achieved. RGSB was established in February 2009 with membership from the research, education and treatment communities and, most importantly, two independent representatives from the gambling operators. It is chaired by Baroness Julia Neuberger DBE and will also have responsibility that the funds needed are provided from voluntary donations.

This will result in a requirement for the provision of the services which will be identified by a combination of the expert panels and a new organisation – the Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF). The latter will put the provision out to tender and filter the competitive bids.

When RGF has decided on the most suitable providers on each of the projects, it will request the funds for the necessary budget from the Responsibility in Gambling Trust (RIGT).

RIGT will assess that the individual grant requests do meet the criteria against which it has raised funds, and the requirement of the RGSB who will have set the overall policy. On the basis that these bids do meet these requirements, RIGT will then make the funding available up to the maximum that has been agreed by quarter and by year.

RIGT has therefore returned to its original perceived function solely of raising funds from the gambling industry. It now has a new Board of Trustees consisting of Chris Bell (Chief Executive of Ladbrokes), Ian Burke (Chief Executive of the Rank Group), Mark Davies (Managing Director of Betfair), Nick Harding (Chief Executive of Praesepe), Dominic Harrison (Chief Executive of Gala Coral), Clive Hawkswood (Chief Executive of Remote Gambling Association), Derek Lloyd (Chief Executive of Danoptra) and Ralph Topping (Chief Executive of William Hill). The Board will be chaired by Andrew Tottenham, Managing Director of Harrah's Development, and John Greenway MP has been appointed President. This does mean that, for the time being, all donations should continue to be made to RIGT. Geoffrey Godbold OBE, until recently the CEO of GamCare and with many years of fundraising experience, has been appointed the new Director of RIGT.

Initially RIGT has agreed to raise £5million for 2009/10; £6million (+20%) for 2010/11; and £7.2million (+20%) for 2011/12. A guarantee has been given that the major ongoing commitments to GamCare, the Gordon Moody Association (Gordon House), and the Soho Clinic will be honoured along with several individual research grants. With the running costs of RGF, this means that a total of £1million per quarter must be raised for each quarter April/June and July/Sept 2009 and £1.6million and £1.4million for the Oct/Dec 2009 and Jan/March 2010 quarters respectively. The funds will only be handed over against specific grant requests to these totals.

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As well as the grant requests, a biannual review of funding requirements and performance of providers will be held to ensure that funds are being correctly and efficiently used. This is a Charity Commission regulation so that RIGT can report to its Trustees and donors that funds are being used for the purpose for which they were given.

Everyone who makes an income from gambling – not just operators and manufacturers but also all those others who make an income from gambling such as the banks, media, law, accountancy organisations etc – will be asked to make a donation at a rate of 0.085% of their Gross Gambling Yield/Profit or its equivalent; with a minimum donation of £250 per year. Whilst direct access to your return to the Gambling Commission that states that you have made a contribution to RET is not allowed, RIGT will work with the Commission to verify all declarations.

So the new agenda will be as follows:

- RGF will continue to fund the previous RIGT commitments
- RGSB will decide on the level of provision of Research, Education and Treatment that will be needed - some in three year rolling contracts, some on a short term basis
- When this programme has been decided, RGF will work with the expert panels to decide on the provision of services
- RGF will put these out to tender and decide on the providers and costs to be contracted
- RIGT will raise the funds as agreed and, against approved grant requests, supply these to RGF for funding the agreed provision

In summary, as can be seen from the attached diagram, the structure which was recommended by the RET Review has now been put in place:

- A Strategy Board to decide objectively on the provision of Research, Education, and Treatment;
- A fundraising organisation to provide sufficient funds to pay for the provision against the overall strategy; and
- A commissioning body to contract and monitor suitable providers.

What is now important is that the system works and so avoids any consideration of introducing a statutory levy to provide the funds. As is now well recognised, a levy would cost those who have to pay it substantially more than they are expected to donate voluntarily. It would also remove the respect that the gambling industry has achieved from showing that it takes its social responsibility seriously by recognising its role in preventing and treating problem gambling in this way.

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Structure for the New Voluntary Arrangements for Fundraising and Funding RET

