

GAMBLING COMMISSION

21 December 2011

Baroness Neuberger DBE
Chair
Responsible Gambling Strategy Board
16 St Martin's le Grand
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Dear Julia

Responsible Gambling Strategy 2011

The Gambling Commission welcomes the publication of the RGSB's third annual strategy, published 9 November 2011. It provides a compelling account of the successes achieved in the first three years of operation, as well as the areas where more needs to be done. Perhaps most importantly it sets out a clear vision for the future direction of RET, and the need to continue building on the achievements of RGSB and RGF to date and on the fundraising efforts of GREaT.

We support in particular the clear message that evaluation is the key to understanding the effectiveness of various forms of intervention, for example, the national freephone telephone number and that this must not be lost in designing successor arrangements to RGF.

There are significant challenges for all parties concerned in the new arrangements to take forward over the next few months, and RGSB will have a critical role to play in ensuring that the Commission and, through the Commission, Government, continue to be provided with impartial, expert advice about what works, priorities and the amount of funding required.

On that note, I would like to place on record the Commission's gratitude for your tireless commitment to developing and professionalising the approach to RET, and for the continuing application of the Board and executive to what have been some very significant challenges. I must also pay tribute to the very professional way in which RGF staff led by Carol have continued to pursue our common objectives despite the very difficult and uncertain circumstances.

Yours sincerely



Philip Graf
Chair



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