

## Responsible Gambling Strategy Board - quarterly update

For Board approval	<input type="checkbox"/>
For Board briefing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For Board steer	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Prepared by:**

**Date:** 13 February 2014

## **Executive summary**

1. This quarterly update on the progress of the Research, Education and Treatment (RET) arrangements provides an update under these headings:
  - governance arrangements
  - development of RGSB advice
  - progress against the Strategy.
2. A letter from the RGSB Chair to the Commission providing an update on the Strategy document published in 2012, will be sent to the Commission in the next few days and will be sent to the Board in advance of its meeting on 20 February.
3. Board is invited to note the update. The Board Secretary will be able to answer any questions about the content of the paper and letter.

## **Issues**

### **Governance arrangements**

4. The RET Chairs' meetings are continuing quarterly and met on 10 December 2013 and will meet again on 25 February 2014.
5. The RGSB Board has met on 27 November and 21 January 2014. The Trust also met on 14 November and 16 January. The Trust's Research Committee met on 14 November and 3 February.
6. RGSB has reviewed each of the Strategy's Key Priorities, allocated a lead Board member and mapped what needs to be achieved to develop and implement each priority. This has resulted in a three year working plan for the Board.
7. An update on the Strategy has been provided in the form of a letter to Philip Graf which will be shared with the Board ahead of the meeting on 20 February. This letter will be published on the RGSB website and the Commission is likely to provide a written response.
8. The Board has renamed each of its 'panels' and 'expert groups' as 'groups' for consistency. Each has newly developed terms of reference, (aligned to the Key Priorities), action plans and rolling actions.
9. The three new Board members (Dr Kate Anthony, Dr Simon Tanner, and Dr Sanju George) are visiting the Commission on 27 March to meet with key members of staff as part of their ongoing induction.
10. The RGSB Advisory Group met on 13 February. Items discussed include: update on RGSB Strategy, machines research programme, Trust fundraising, Health Surveys, self-exclusion and the Remote Bill.

## **Development of RGSB advice**

### ***Machines***

11. In discussion with the Commission and the Trust, RGSB has developed a 'Machines Research Framework'. This document was agreed by RGSB at its meeting on 27 November and shared with the Trust to consider in developing its further machines research. This document collated the full range of research questions to be addressed by ongoing research. However, ongoing discussions have meant that his long list now needs a more focussed narrative which explains the need to address two priority questions:
  - Can we identify harmful gaming machine play?
  - If so what can we do to mitigate harm?
12. In December the RGSB and Commission had initial sight of a set of proposals for the next steps of the Trust's machines research programme. They published the outputs from 'Machines 2' and 'Machines 3' on 9 December. There was a very initial discussion about next steps at a meeting with the Trust on 4 December. Shortly after Jenny Williams and Chris Kelly met with the Minister and bookmakers (12 December) to discuss the evidence gaps and further measures the industry could take to address the concerns around B2 machines. At this meeting it was agreed that further discussion was needed about the structure and content of the Trust's ongoing machines research programme.
13. A meeting took place between RGSB, the Trust and the Commission on 13 January following which Chris Kelly wrote to Neil Goulden setting out how further research could help address the policy questions at hand. The Trust discussed this letter and their response at their meeting on 16 January. A new set of proposals for research were presented by the Trust to RGSB at its meeting on 21 January and a follow-on meeting was held between the Trust, RGSB (Ruth Callaghan) and the Commission (Matthew Hill) on 23 January. This resulted in a letter from RGSB to the Trust which is attached at Annex A which was sent in advance of the further meeting held with the Minister on 30 January.

### ***Advertising and marketing***

14. The RGSB as well as the Commission have received a draft version of Dr Per Binde's review of evidence around gambling advertising and marketing. We will continue to work with the Commission to understand that research, advise what further research might be beneficial and to feed into advice to DCMS.

### ***Young people***

15. The Young Persons Group has been developing a position paper which RGSB plans to publish in April. The Young Persons Group meets on 26 February to discuss the position paper and to receive a presentation from the GamCare youth pilot in Bristol.

### ***Self-exclusion***

16. The issues around self-exclusion and pressure to identify feasible improvements were discussed at a meeting between the Commission, RGSB and the Trust on 28 January 2014. RGSB is preparing an advice note based primarily on a review of the evidence being finalised by the Trust.

### **Research governance**

17. The RGSB Research Group met on 13 February. Consisting of a range of academics from different disciplines the group is being used to provide a steer on the machines research programme, research with young people, the Commission's Health Survey compendium reports and the Commission's draft Evidence Gathering Strategy.

### **Progress against the Strategy**

18. A three-year plan structured around each of the eight Key Priorities has been agreed by the RGSB Board. An update on how we will continue to develop the Strategy will be sent by correspondence to the Board.
19. We are engaging with the Trust on a regular basis to ensure that the Board understands how the Strategy is being implemented through the Trust's commissioning of services and projects. An update on Trust activities (provided to RGSB on 21 January) is set out at Annex B.

### **Consideration**

20. Board is asked to note the content of the update provided in this paper and the Strategy update letter. The Board Secretariat is able to address any comments or questions about the content.
21. We are in the process of finding a date for an update session with Rachel Lampard and Walter Merricks in March 2014.

## Annex A

28 January 2014

Dear Neil

Thank you for your letter of 20 January sharing your revised plans for the next stages of machines research. Marc was able to present the plans to the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board last week and there was subsequently a helpful further discussion with the Trust which Ruth Callaghan attended.

The Board is grateful for the swift action taken by the Trust to address the concerns raised over the last few weeks by reshaping the programme.

We all recognise, of course, that much needs to be done to scope much of the work. But we welcome the core programme and the proposed evaluation of the ABB code as it develops. The degree of co-operation between the industry and researchers which the core programme in particular involves, and the commitment it represents in terms of access to players and venues as well as sharing data, are steps we have wanted for some time.

I am pleased by the confidence you have expressed that the programme will deliver significant advances in understanding harm and harm mitigation by the Autumn. I hope you are right. But we are, I think, agreed that if the preliminary work proves to be productive fuller understanding about harm minimisation will need a longer timeframe.

I am grateful for your undertaking to continue discussions about the proposed work once it has been further scoped so that we can understand how the identified risks will be managed and to assess what further research is worthwhile once the initial stages of the data analysis work is completed in April.

I would also like to record the point made to Marc at our Board meeting last week about the wealth of information which might be available from treatment client data – though I recognise that this is not a part of your initial package of work.

Regards

Chris

## Annex B

# Briefing note to RGSB

Provided to RGSB on Tuesday 21 January 2014

## Finance

**Cash balance** at 31 December 2013 was **£4.1million** including £0.5million held in a separate 'reserves' account

**Cash flow forecast** – assumes for the year ending 31 March 2014: £5.8million receipts, distributed funds of £5.5million and overheads of £0.54million (9%) with a carry-forward of £2.9million including reserves.

**Q3 Management Accounts** (ending 31 December 2013) report receipts of £4.7million (2012 - £4.4million), charitable expenditure of £3million (£2.6million) and overheads of £399,000 (£342,000). Net Assets of £3.8million including £3.6million in cash.

## Fundraising, 2013/14

Kilimanjaro 2013 – fundraising closed on 31 December 2013 and the amount raised for RGT is £71,415, which is likely to rise to **£74,000** as outstanding gift aid is received.

Year to date fundraising total (received and pledged): **£5.4million** (£5million 2012/13)

## Communications

NatGen's research reports (Machines 2 and 3) were published via the RGT website on Tuesday 10 December and a press statement issued. Despite offering the opportunity for exclusive coverage to the BBC and The Independent, there was no national media interest.

NG and MWE met **Helen Grant, MP and Minister of State at DCMS** responsible for gambling policy on 17 December 2013, and were accompanied by Heather Wardle (NatGen) to provide reassurances regarding the nature of the machines-related research programme in 2014.

Trade Associations' quarterly briefing meeting (chaired by NG) has held on 17 December 2013 and dates for 2014 have been agreed.

## Events

The one-day 'harm minimisation' conference chaired by Liz Barclay on **Wednesday 11 December 2013** at the King's Fund in central London was attended by 150 plus delegates, predominately from the gambling industry, and seems to have been very well received.

## Treatment Funding Agreements

MWE and JR are meeting on **23 January** with GamCare and the three partner-services to review the outcomes of the GRaHM 'pilot projects' and will report back to RGT trustees in March with recommendations regarding future funding agreements.

MWE and JR are meeting on **7 February** with John Mellor-Clark regarding his review of Gordon Moody and the National Problem Gambling Clinic, and will report back to RGT trustees in March with recommendations regarding future funding agreements.

## Category B Gaming Machines Research Programme Update

The revised **Machines 2 ('Examining machine player behaviour: a qualitative exploration')** report was published in December 2013. The reworked report was found to be

useful and much improved on the original submission. The main take-away being that this work supported the notion that player-led harm minimisation might be more effective than a one-size-fits-all approach since different players responded differently to machine characteristics and adopted different strategies with different degrees of success for regulating their play. Learnings from this project are being brought forward into proposed qualitative and quantitative survey work from NatCen under consideration for Machines 4.

**Machines 3a ('Scoping the use of industry data on Category B gaming machines')** was also published in December 2013. Key outcomes from the scoping exercise include:

- It provided an important platform to move programme of machines research forward.
- It identified three different types of data generated and held by gambling industry operators: 'transactional', 'player-tracked' and 'proxy session' data. Each of these, while having limitations in how they can be used, can make a new and significant contribution to an improved knowledge and understanding of player behaviour and harm minimisation in gaming machines.
- It gives important insight and informs the debate around constructing a '**Machines Data Framework**' (**MDF**) for industry to develop to use as evidence to inform a future regulatory policy around gaming machine parameters. Further dialogue is urgently required regarding how, and with whom this will be taken forward.
- The scoping exercise, along with RGSB's Machines Research Framework document has shaped both the demonstrator projects (**Machines 3b**) and other primary research (**Machines 4**) in the ongoing machines research programme.

**Contextual Papers for the Machines Research Programme** were also published last December and these have been made available in online 'open access' format from the journal's website (available at <http://www.ubplj.org/index.php/jgbe/index>). Hard copies are still available upon request from Trust offices. In the special issue, five of the original six papers were published. The sixth paper considering gambling in the context of other public-health issues was withheld for further revisions and potentially to be used in the Trust's work relating to 'Gambling and Public Health'.