

Minutes of the meeting of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board held on 17 July 2012

Venue: Government Art Collection, Queens Yard, 179a Tottenham Court
Road, London, W1T 7PA

Time: 10.15am

Present:

Chris Bell	CB
Paul Bellringer	PB
Henrietta Bowden-Jones	HBJ
Russell Hoyle	RH
David Miers	DM
Brian Pomeroy (Chair)	BP
Eleanor Roaf	ER

In attendance:

Ruth Callaghan	RC
Marc Etches (items 1-5)	ME
Jon Watkin (minutes)	JW

Apologies:

Alan Jamieson	AJ
Richard Ives	RI
Gerda Reith	GR

Actions:	Status	Minute number / Page
RC to make minor amendments to revised terms of reference and inform Gambling Commission Commissioners.	Done	3.2 / p.3
ME to share funding agreements (specifically Gordon Moody Association and National Problem Gambling Clinic) with RGSB.	To be done	4.5 / p.4
RC to incorporate the Board's comments and circulate fuller intermediate draft of strategy for SWG comment by 24 July.	Done	5.3 / p.4
BP to discuss secretariat capacity and resourcing issues with the Gambling Commission.	To be done	6.2 / p.5
BP to discuss at next chairs' meeting how RGSB can continue to have access to resource and expertise without having to commission/fund pieces of work.	To be done	6.2 / p.5
JW to confirm composition of Industry Liaison Group for RH.	Done	7.2 / p.5
JW to contact Greek Gaming Board to find details about what data sharing conditions they have imposed as prerequisite of new machines.	In hand	7.2 / p.5
RH and RC to discuss industry machines data requirements, and what form this request may take.	To be done	7.2 / p.5
RH to produce a paragraph comparing relative loss rates of B2s and B3s and share with RC.	To be done	7.2 / p.5
Secretariat to circulate details of Gambling Commission/ National Lottery Commission merger consultation.	Done	8.1 / p.6

1 Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Alan Jamieson, Richard Ives and Gerda Reith.

2 Declarations of interest

- 2.1 No new conflicts of interest were declared.

3 Minutes and action points from the meeting held on 18 May 2012

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2012 were approved as true record.

Revised terms of reference for the Strategy Board

- 3.2 The revised terms of reference were agreed subject to some minor amendments.

Action: RC to make minor amendments to revised terms of reference and inform Gambling Commission Commissioners.

4 Update from RGT on delivery progress

- 4.1 ME updated the Board on the Responsible Gambling Trust (the Trust) issues, including progress on fundraising. The group discussed the proportions of money allocated to research, education and treatment and what steps could be considered to increase donations.

Research

- 4.2 ME updated the Board on Trust-funded research projects including phase 2 of ALSPAC (report expected July 2014) and Machines 2 (report expected August 2012).
- 4.3 The Board was updated on the progress of the PhD programme. ME advised that no new applications are being considered at this time, and that consideration needs to be given to whether it is a cost-effective way of increasing research capacity. It was suggested that the finalising of the Strategy document will assist in generating a list of potential future PhD topics.

Education

- 4.3 ME updated the Board on the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) project. The Board discussed whether this funding delivers value for money, and whether other agencies (e.g. Citizens' Advice Bureau) could be more effective at reaching a wider audience. The Board agreed that, given the RCGP's role in NHS commissioning, there is an advantage in getting gambling on their agenda.

- 4.4 The Board was updated on progress in relation to Gambleaware and the Infohub. ME advised that there are currently some concerns over the InfoHub's content and functionality, but it is hoped that it will go live in the autumn.

Treatment

- 4.5 The Board was advised that the Trust will be writing to Gordon Moody Association and the National Problem Gambling Clinic to confirm the extension of their funding agreements until March 2013. These agreements will consist of full terms and conditions, and not just an offer letter as previously.

Action: ME to share funding agreements (specifically Gordon Moody Association and National Problem Gambling Clinic) with RGSB.

- 4.6 ME advised the Board that recruitment for the Director of Commissioning role will commence in the autumn, once a better understanding of the role has been acquired.

5 Standing item: Strategy issues discussion

- 5.1 The Board discussed the latest outline draft of the RGSB Strategy (RGSB 12 03 (3) produced by the Strategy Working Group (SWG). Consideration was given to whether the Strategy should be a comprehensive statement (even if this involves a degree of overlap with previous iterations) or whether it should be a standalone document. The Board also discussed the nature of a 'rolling' strategy and the practical implications of this.

- 5.2 It was agreed that the eight key priorities (KPs) in Section B should remain.

- 5.3 The Board discussed the structure, tone and content of the draft Strategy and agreed that it should be amended to:

- Introduce an element of prioritisation (giving consideration to Gambling Commission requirements).
- Be more strategic in nature, drawing a clearer distinction between strategy (what to achieve) and tactics (how it will be achieved).
- Contain a section (Section C) which addresses the following; people, risk and harm factors, and prevention and treatment approaches.

Action: RC to incorporate the Board's comments and circulate fuller intermediate draft of strategy for SWG comment by 24 July.

6 Stranding item: Harm prevention issues

- 6.1 The Board agreed that consideration should be given to producing a position statement on self-exclusion based on an assessment of the current international and domestic evidence base.

6.2 The Board discussed the potential mechanisms for ensuring the RGSB has the capacity and ability to conduct evidence assessments, learn from other fields and to bring in appropriate expertise.

Action: BP to discuss secretariat capacity and resourcing issues with the Gambling Commission.

Action: BP to discuss at next chairs' meeting how RGSB can continue to have access to resource and expertise without having to commission/fund pieces of work.

7 Standing item: Expert group feedback

Machines Expert Group (MEG) and triennial advice

7.1 DM and RC updated the Board on progress with regards to the Machines Expert Group (MEG) and triennial advice. MEG has already commenced work in this area, and is not waiting for publication of the DCMS consultation document. In the first instance this involves production of summary paper outlining what the existing evidence base is in relation to machines.

7.2 The Board discussed the potential of industry machines data to inform RGSB's advice on the triennial review. The Board agreed that it is valuable to have access to this dataset in order to produce baseline data on machine activity. The following points were also raised:

- The Trust has established an Industry Liaison Group.
- Any data request to the industry would need to contain a pre-defined template for operators to populate.
- Consideration should be given to the approaches adopted in other jurisdictions where provision of industry data to the regulator is compulsory (e.g. Italy, Greece)
- There are widespread misunderstandings surrounding the respective potential loss rates of B2 and B3 machines.

Action: JW to confirm composition of Industry Liaison Group for RH.

Update: Composition confirmed.

Action: JW to contact Greek Gaming Board to find details about what data sharing conditions they have imposed as prerequisite of new machines.

Update: Initial contact made.

Action: RH and RC to discuss industry machines data requirements, and what form this request may take.

Action: RH to produce a paragraph comparing relative loss rates of B2s and B3s and share with RC

8 AOB

- 8.1 The Gambling Commission and National Lottery Commission (NLC) merger consultation document will be published soon. The Board noted that this merger would increase the RGSB's remit.

Action: Secretariat to circulate details of Gambling Commission/ National Lottery Commission merger consultation.

Update: Details of consultation circulated.

- 8.2 Board were advised that the Dispatches documentary has yet to be broadcast, and the proposed date of broadcast is not yet known.

- 8.3 RC advised the Board that she and Matthew Hill (Gambling Commission) met with GamCare and discussed the RGSB response to GamCare's submission to the Department of Education's PSHE consultation. It was suggested that a meeting between RGSB, the Trust and GamCare would allow discussion of their future plans.