

## Meeting of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board: 18 May 2016

**Venue:** London Mathematical Society, De Morgan House, 57-58 Russell Square, London, WC1B 4HS

**Time:** 10.15am – 14.00pm

**Attendees:** David Forrest (DF), Ian Gilmore (IG), Russell Hoyle (RH), Richard Ives (RI), Chris Kelly (CK) (Chair), Rachel Lampard (RL), David Miers (DM), Heather Wardle (HW)

**In attendance:** Jessica Barnett (JB), Iain Corby (IC), Marc Etches (ME), Joanne Higgs (JH) (minutes), Paul Hope (PH), Tim Livesley (TL), Jonathan Watkin (JW) (via telephone for items 6 and 7)

**Apologies:** Simon Tanner (ST)

Ref	Action:	Status	Minute number / Page
18	Secretariat to ensure that the lottery discussion on Board forward plan is broader than just the National Lottery.	Complete	2.3/p2
19	TL to take forward the proposals for additional communications activity.	In progress	4.2/p3
20	Board to send the secretariat further proposals on performance measures.	In progress	4.2/p3
21	Secretariat to update Annex C on public health agencies to include organisations in Scotland and Wales.	Complete	4.2/p3
22	JH to update the Board forward plan in light of the discussion.	Complete	5.3/p3
23	Secretariat to extend the time of the Board meeting in July.	Complete	5.3/p3
24	Secretariat to prepare an induction programme for when the new Board members are appointed.	In progress	5.3/p3
25	JW and TL to produce an updated paper for the next Board meeting in July.	Complete	6.3/p4
26	JH to update the Board forward plan regarding when RGSB will finalise its advice for the Triennial Review.	Complete	6.3/p4
27	JW/TL to draw attention to items of specific interest to RGSB in the covering paper for future quarterly research briefings.	In progress	7.2/p4
28	JB/secretariat to circulate copies of the full research papers.	Complete	7.2/p4
29	JH to email the current Register of Members' Interests to Board for review and amendment.	Complete	9.2/p5

## **1: Apologies and declarations of interest**

- 1.1. Apologies were received from ST. CK also noted his congratulations to RI, RH and ST on their recent reappointments to the Board. RH also noted that he had resigned as a director from OpenBet.
- 1.2. CK welcomed JB to the meeting for item 7.

## **2: Minutes and matters arising from meeting on 17 March 2016: RGSB 16 03 (01)**

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.
- 2.2 CK thanked the secretariat for a good, clear set of papers.
- 2.3 DM requested that any future discussion on lottery issues should include other large society lotteries such as the Health Lottery and People's Postcode Lottery and not just focus on the National Lottery.

**Action:** Secretariat to ensure that the lottery discussion on the Board forward plan is broader than just the National Lottery.

## **3: RGSB secretariat – update report: RGSB 16 03 (02)**

- 3.1 TL drew Board member's attention to the update report on the work of the secretariat which had been provided for information, and noted that there were no areas of concern.
- 3.2 CK briefly updated member's on the meeting with DCMS where he had advised them that RGSB would publish its advice on machines, stakes and prizes when it was ready even if that is before the Triennial Review is announced.

## **4: RGSB strategy – next steps: RGSB 16 03 (03)**

- 4.1 TL introduced the paper and updated members on current and planned work to take forward the implementation of the new responsible gambling strategy. This included activity around communicating the strategy, finalising the Research Commissioning and Governance Procedure and developing the research strategy. TL also gave an update on progress with developing an action plan and performance measures for reporting on the strategy as well as the creation of a sub-group to lead on engagement with other public sector bodies to encourage them to accept their responsibilities for reducing gambling-related harm (priority action 2).
- 4.2 In the discussion that followed Board members raised the following points:
  - Communication: secretariat should consider promoting the strategy through the following channels: Responsible Gambling Council Ontario through their Newscan alert, the Local Government Association, the National Council on Problem Gambling in America, Public Health England's September conference, the Journal of Behavioural Addictions [where Henrietta Bowden-Jones is on the editorial Board], and the Gaming Law Review and Economics publication.
  - Research Commissioning and Governance Procedure: Board endorsed the publication of the revised Research Commissioning and Governance Procedure

subject to the addition of a reference to the separate process for the RGT funded PhD programme. Board also endorsed the change from the term 'participating observer' to 'advisor' which they agreed better reflected RGSB's role on the Trust's Research Committee.

- **Research Strategy:** It was agreed that the research strategy should be a high-level strategic document that sets out the research questions RGSB feels need to be addressed with a brief rationale for each. The research strategy would be published in September and would cover the period until the end of the strategy in 2018-19 but with an annual review each year. As the research strategy will be a sub-set of the national responsibility gambling strategy which was subject to formal consultation, it was agreed that a further consultation was not required. However, RGSB would be happy to receive any feedback on the research strategy once published to inform the first review in March 2017.
- **Action plan:** HW advised that the performance measures should be realistic and should include different levels of impact.
- **Sub-group:** Board supported this proposal and noted that Annex C on public health agencies should include Scotland and Wales.

**Action:** TL to take forward the proposals for additional communications activity.

**Action:** Board to send the secretariat further proposals on performance measures.

**Action:** Secretariat to update Annex C on public health agencies to include organisations in Scotland and Wales.

#### **5: Proposal – Board forward plan 2016-17 and future meetings: RGSB 16 03 (04)**

- 5.1 CK introduced the paper which set out proposals for Board meetings and related activities for 2016-17. This included the introduction of a Board away day, roundtable seminars, and a more thematic approach to stakeholder visits.
- 5.2 Board were generally supportive of the proposals in the paper and DM suggested that rather than setting up separate seminars, it might be more beneficial to extend some of the existing Board meetings throughout the year to have more detailed presentations and debates on topics of interest. Any such discussions would be informed by papers and external speakers (where appropriate). One recommended topic for a future debate was 'how to engage researchers from other related fields into gambling'.
- 5.3 IG felt that it would be good to schedule visits in a more structured way to support Board discussions but noted that new Board members would still require a much broader and generic introduction. Board agreed to extend the time of the July meeting and hold an away day later in the year.

**Action:** JH to update the Board forward plan in light of the discussion.

**Action:** Secretariat to extend the time of the Board meeting in July.

**Action:** Secretariat to prepare an induction programme for when the new Board members are appointed.

## **6: Discussion – developing RGSB advice for the Triennial Review on stakes and prizes: RGSB 16 03 (05)**

- 6.1 TL introduced the paper which set out the emerging thinking of the sub-group tasked with developing RGSB's advice on the Triennial Review. The paper identified a number of important topics which the sub-group felt would benefit from wider Board consideration and proposed a framework for shaping the Board's advice.
- 6.2 The Board had a detailed discussion on the issues raised in the paper and identified a number of high-level principles for progressing its advice. These focused around: not being constrained by the absence of full evidence, focusing on clear statements and dealing with 'myths', considering all available evidence even that which RGSB considered for the previous Triennial Review, acknowledging the balance, tension and dilemmas inherent within all of the issues and options, and understanding what is possible and where there are particular restrictions or concerns.
- 6.3 CK asked TL and JW to bring an updated paper to the next meeting based on the Board discussion and with a more detailed summary of 'what we know'. CK also noted that the current proposal in the forward plan that Board would finalise its advice at the July meeting was ambitious.

**Action:** JW and TL to produce an updated paper for the next Board meeting in July.

**Action:** JH to update the Board forward plan regarding when RGSB will finalise its advice for the Triennial Review.

## **7: Quarterly Research Briefing: RGSB 16 03 (06)**

- 7.1 TL introduced the Quarterly Research Briefing which is produced by JB for the Gambling Commission with the purpose of summarising significant research that has either been published recently, or is due to be published in the near future. Board were invited to focus on three items that were of particular relevance: *Evaluating the impact of the uplift of stakes and prizes on B1 gaming machines in casinos*. Forrest et al. (2015), *Evaluation of Gaming Machine (Circumstances of Use) (Amendment) Regulations 2015*. DCMS. (2016), and *Exploring area-based vulnerability to gambling-related harm index*. Wardle et al. (2016). Commissioned by Westminster and Manchester City Councils.
- 7.2 RGSB thanked JB for the briefing which they said was very useful, in particular the addition of the section on policy implications. Board also requested sight of the full papers referenced in the briefing where available.

**Action:** JW/TL to draw attention to items of specific interest to RGSB in the covering paper for future quarterly research briefings.

**Action:** JB/secretariat to circulate copies of the full research papers where available.

## **8: Update from the Responsible Gambling Trust: RGSB 16 03 (07)**

- 8.1 ME took members through his paper on current activity at the Responsible Gambling Trust which members found useful. A copy of the paper is available on the Trust's website <http://www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/media/1305/report-to-rgsb-18-may-2016-for-publication.pdf>

## **9: RGSB governance documents: RGSB 16 03 (08)**

- 9.1 CK reminded members that the updated governance policies on Code of Conduct, Conflicts of Interest and Remuneration had been published on a new governance area on the RGSB website. CK reminded members that it was their responsibility remain up-to-date with relevant policies in their role on the Board.
- 9.2 JH added that she would be contacting Board members to review and update the Register of Members' Interests for 2016 prior to publishing on the website.

**Action:** JH to email the current Register of Members' Interests to Board for review and amendment.

## **10: Any other business**

- 10.1 RH provided feedback from the ABB Responsible Gambling Committee meeting on 11 May.
- 10.2 RL drew members' attention to a recent debate on [Radio 4](#) about how some Parkinson's drugs which can increase impulsive and compulsive behaviour are causing gambling addiction.

**Next meeting: 18 July 2016, Wesley Hotel, 81-103 Euston Street, London, NW1 2EZ**