
PRESS STATEMENT

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Sports Minister to speak at third annual Harm Minimisation Conference

Minister for Sport, Tourism and Heritage Tracey Couch will be amongst the speakers at the third annual Responsible Gambling Trust (RGT) Harm Minimisation Conference.

The conference will be held at the King's Fund, Cavendish Square, London on Wednesday 9 December 2015 and the overall theme is minimising gambling-related harm in Britain. This year the programme will focus on the range of independent research projects commissioned by RGT and is an opportunity for the gambling industry to discuss what initiatives the charity is undertaking to minimise gambling-related harm. In the past year RGT has launched research programmes into remote gambling behaviour, measuring gambling-related harm, discussion of gambling on social media, and the nature and extent of problem gambling behaviour in licensed bingo retail operations.

Other speakers at the one-day event will include Dr Jon Kelly of Responsible Gambling Council (Canada), Sarah Harrison from the Gambling Commission, University College London Professor Jo Wolff and Sir Chris Kelly of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board. The conference is supported by sponsorship from IGT, Rank Group, Regulus Partners, Featurespace and Sky Betting and Gaming.

Those wishing to attend the conference should apply for an invitation via:

<http://www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/about/harm-minimisation-conference-2016/2015-conference/>

Marc Etches, Chief Executive of the Responsible Gambling Trust, said:

"We launched the annual Harm Minimisation Conference in 2013 to bring together government, academia, industry and responsible gambling campaigners. That conference was the first of its kind in the United Kingdom. This will be the first occasion the gambling minister speaks at the conference and shows that the one-day event is cementing itself as an important fixture for those of us concerned to build knowledge of harm minimisation in gambling."

-ENDS-

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- The Responsible Gambling Trust is the leading charity in the UK committed to minimising gambling-related harm. As an independent national charity funded by donations from the gambling industry, the Responsible Gambling Trust funds education, prevention and treatment services and commissions research to broaden public understanding of gambling-related harm. The aim is to stop people getting into problems with their gambling, and ensure that those that do develop problems receive fast and effective treatment and support.
- The Responsible Gambling Trust raises a minimum of £5 million each year from the gambling industry operating in Britain within a voluntary (donation based) system and funds research, education, prevention and treatment services. Funding priorities are guided by the national strategy advised by the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The latest strategy was published in December 2012.