

GambleAware

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PRESS STATEMENT

Problem gambling has been overlooked and underfunded for too long, GambleAware Chair tells APPG on FOBTs.

London, December 1 2016: Appearing before the Fixed Odds Betting Terminals All Party Parliamentary Group, GambleAware Chair, Kate Lampard CBE, said problem gambling has been overlooked and underfunded for too long. As gambling-related harm is linked to all forms of gambling, not just FOBTs, she set out GambleAware's strategy to fund further research, education and treatment services for individuals and their families.

In the final week of the Government's call for evidence for its gambling policy review, Lampard also warned that if policy makers were hoping for clear answers to the FOBT debate from research, they would be disappointed. Speaking alongside Sir Christopher Kelly, Chair of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB), Ms Lampard and GambleAware's Chief Executive, Marc Etches, guided the committee through an extensive collection of research commissioned by the charity over the past three years. They also described the relationship between the two organisations, with RGSB determining the research agenda, and GambleAware's independent Research Committee, chaired by Professor Jo Wolff of Oxford University, then commissioning projects and publishing their reports.

Kate Lampard, Chair of GambleAware trustees, said to the APPG: "We are very happy to come before you to offer what insights we can from the research, education and treatment work that GambleAware does but we would caution that the issues you are looking at are complicated; the research does not provide any clear answers to the understandable concerns that you and the public have about FOBTs. The issues surrounding FOBTs are many and complicated and they are matters on which ultimately you and other policy makers are going to have to exercise your best judgment."

Marc Etches, Chief Executive of GambleAware, said: "All of us at GambleAware are passionate about what we do. In the last three years we have commissioned a significant body of independent, high quality research, much of which is ground-breaking, that has contributed substantially to the international body of knowledge."

Specifically in relation to the research that we did around machines in bookmakers, the focus was to endeavour to identify whether it was possible to identify the difference between harmful and non-harmful play, as a basis on which one might then ensure that minimisation of gambling-related harm might be effective. We set about to commission quite a wide body piece of research that I think has brought forward a great deal of understanding about player behaviour that can now, I hope, inform the discussions that you will have about, for example, stakes."

-ENDS-

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NOTES

- A full transcript of the oral evidence is available [here](#).
- The Responsible Gambling Trust operating as GambleAware 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, GambleAware 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. Click here to find out more: <http://about.gambleaware.org/>
- GambleAware raises over £7 million each year in voluntary contributions from the gambling industry operating in Great Britain. This donation based system was proposed under the Gambling Act 2005 and is prescribed by the Gambling Commission in its Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice.
- GambleAware's programme of treatment, education, harm prevention and research are guided by the National Responsible Gambling Strategy, which is defined by the independent Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware work together under the terms of an agreement in place since 2012: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1216/statementofintent.pdf>. Research is conducted under the terms of a 'Research Commissioning and Governance Procedure' agreed in 2016 by the RGSB, the Gambling Commission and GambleAware: <http://about.gambleaware.org/media/1270/research-commissioning-and-governance-procedure-may-2016-final.pdf>.
- Research priorities are guided by the [National Responsible Gambling Strategy](#) advised by the [Responsible Gambling Strategy Board](#) (RGSB) and endorsed by the [Gambling Commission](#). The latest strategy was published in April 2016.
- All GambleAware research is subject to international, academic peer review, and is available on its website at <http://about.gambleaware.org/research/research-publications/>.
- A [Research Commissioning and Governance Procedure](#) describes how research priorities are identified, and research projects commissioned, through the tripartite agreement between the RGSB, GambleAware and the Gambling Commission. It covers the commissioning and governance of a wide range of research, from individually commissioned research, to that undertaken through longer-term options, such as PhDs.