

24 February 2015

Dear

I am writing to clarify our position following a recent letter to the Minister of State responsible for gambling policy from a recipient of treatment services funded by RGT that claimed the treatment service provider had *“changed his testimonial so as not to antagonise the RGT”*.

The treatment service provider concerned has written to the Minister making it clear that this was not the case. However, for the avoidance of any doubt, RGT’s trustees have asked me to confirm with you that funding decisions relating to the delivery of treatment and harm prevention services are wholly based on the evidence of success or otherwise of the work you do to minimise gambling-related harm. Categorically, RGT’s funding decisions will not be unduly influenced by opinions expressed by any of your clients about either the gambling industry generally, or about individual gambling products, venues or operators.

As you will know, RGT is introducing a Data Reporting Framework (DRF) as a condition of all future funding agreements and this will ensure that client data is uniformly collected and available for secondary reporting on the problem gambling treatment and gambling related harm services funded by RGT. The data collected will include details of client gambling behaviour and related history, including impacts of problem gambling behaviour. The analysis of the data collected will be independently carried out and published periodically.

RGT understands the need to generate widespread trust and credibility in its independence and integrity, particularly in view of the investment of both fundraising and commissioning functions in a single, industry-funded body. RGT has put in place robust governance arrangements including establishing, in collaboration with the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB), a treatment panel of experts with the following duties:

- Critically review and make recommendations to the RGT Board about the development and delivery of its strategy and funding plans in relation to treatment and minimising gambling-related harm in light of available evidence, information and advice, as well as taking account of the RGSB’s rolling three-year strategy;
- Consider and make recommendations to the RGT board regarding the resources necessary to deliver the RGT’s strategy in relation to treatment and minimising gambling-related harm.

The full terms of reference for the treatment panel are published via the RGT website, and its members currently are:

- Alan Jamieson (Chair) – RGT Trustee; former Deputy CEO of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy and Director of the National AIDS helpline;
- Dr Simon Tanner – a member of RGSB; a former GP and former Regional Director of Public Health for London;
- Dr John Mellor-Clark – Research Director, Centre for Psychological Therapies in Primary Care at the University of Chester.

I hope that this reassures you but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

**Marc W. Etches**  
Chief Executive