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**PRESS STATEMENT**

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Images available	Responsible Gambling Trust logo

**Responsible Gambling Trust (RGT) publishes Charity Commission response to complaints about conflict of interest.**

**London, May 27:** The Charity Commission has dismissed as "unsubstantiated" complaints about the Responsible Gambling Trust made by two lobbying groups - the Campaign for Fairer Gambling and Rethink Gambling. Correspondence from the Charity Commission, published today, has also confirmed that potential "conflict of interest within the charity is well managed and recorded".

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

"The Responsible Gambling Trust's focus is on minimising gambling related harm. Our research relies on data and information sharing from the gambling industry and our treatment services rely on staff who work in the industry to ensure those at risk get access to the right support, at the right time. Industry donations are vital to the work that we do, providing the majority of our budget. Under the circumstances, it is only sensible and pragmatic for us to have trustees from the industry and staff with experience of it. We have always been totally transparent about industry funding and relationships. We believe they put us in a stronger position to help people with gambling problems and prevent gambling related harm in the first place.

The damaging implications in the media, and in subsequent complaints to the Charity Commission, that these relationships undermined our independence are something that trustees have taken extremely seriously. In particular, we are pleased to see trustees' faith in Dr. Jane Rigbye, who expertly commissions our treatment services, endorsed by the rejection of unfounded personal attacks on her conduct, made by campaigners. The Responsible Gambling Trust has robust and transparent governance arrangements to ensure the independence of all research, treatment and harm-minimisation work it commissions. We are glad that the Charity Commission's swift and unequivocal response to the complaints means we can now draw a line under what it found to be 'unsubstantiated' criticisms and get on with our vitally important charitable work."

**-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. Click here to find out more: <http://www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/>
- The Responsible Gambling Trust 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.
- The Responsible Gambling Trust'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 RGT work together under the terms of an agreement in place since 2012.