

Lord Grade
House of Lords Select Committee
c/o Michael Collon OBE

7 July 2020

By email: COLLONM@parliament.uk

Dear Lord Grade,

Re: House of Lords Select Committee into the Social and Economic Impact of the Gambling Industry

I am writing on behalf of the trustees of GambleAware, who welcome the publication last week of the report of the Select Committee into the Social and Economic Impact of the Gambling Industry.

The detailed discussion contained in the report will usefully inform the national debate about a range of gambling issues. Trustees are pleased that the information and analysis that GambleAware provided in its evidence was able to help the Select Committee in its work.

As the report notes, almost all the recommendations are for Government and its agencies to implement. There is however one recommendation directed at GambleAware at paragraph 574 saying that *“GambleAware must correct the current anomalous system of funding treatment so that charities providing treatment are free to raise money from other sources without imperilling their current funding”*.

Trustees wish me to confirm that treatment providers we commission are entirely free to raise funds for whatever purpose they deem is appropriate, and rightly so. This is borne out by their accounts, which show various sources of funding other than GambleAware.

However, trustees do make a stipulation against duplicate funding i.e. treatment providers should not seek to get paid twice over for the same activity. Trustees seek this assurance so that the charity’s resources are being used for their intended purpose, which is a matter of best-practice.

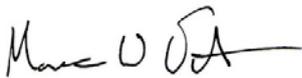
Paragraph 573 of the Select Committee’s report clarified the concern that underpinned its recommendation as being not wanting *“a procedure which prevents new activities from being funded at all by ensuring that in practice no additional funds can be raised”*.

Again, trustees wish me to allay the concern. GambleAware welcomes all worthwhile new activities, whether funded by itself or by a third party. Moreover, in the interests of building a system that is accessible to all those who need help, we encourage innovation and promote collaboration and co-ordination between organisations and between activities. Examples of good collaboration of this nature can be seen in the joint

submission that GambleAware submitted on 19 June on behalf of the sector to the House of Commons DCMS Select Committee in response to the call for evidence on the impact of COVID-19.¹

To assist central Government in mapping the implementation of the House of Lords Select Committee's recommendations, I am copying this letter to the Secretaries of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, and Health & Social Care, and to the Chair of the Gambling Commission.

With very best wishes,



Marc W Etches
Chief Executive, GambleAware

CC:

Oliver Dowden MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health & Social Care

Bill Moyes, Chair, Gambling Commission

¹ Please see <https://about.gambleaware.org/media/2203/dcms-select-committee-covid-inquiry-response-by-organisations-reducing-gambling-harms.pdf>