

GambleAware

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ANNOUNCEMENT

GambleAware commissions evaluation of blocking software

London, 6 October 2017: GambleAware has commissioned Birmingham-based consultancy, Databuild Consulting, to undertake an evaluation of available software solutions for blocking access to online gambling from mobiles, tablets and computers.

The objectives for this evaluation are to determine:

1. Whether blocking software is effective at reducing gambling-related harm?
2. Whether software is more effective at reducing gambling-related harm when used alongside other forms of treatment (for example, self-exclusion)?
3. If the available blocking software is technically effective at preventing access to all forms of online gambling? What are the relative advantages and disadvantages of the currently available solutions? Which should be recommended for use and which should not? Is there any additional functionality that should be developed for such software to be technically effective?
4. Whether blocking software offers additional benefits beyond those which will be delivered by the GAMSTOP national online self-exclusion scheme, sufficient to make a case for making such software more widely available?

[Databuild](#) is one of the ten diverse organisations that has been appointed to a three-year framework contract with GambleAware to supply evaluation services. A report is expected in the spring of 2018.

-ENDS-

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NOTES

- Guided by the [National Responsible Gambling Strategy](#), GambleAware is an independent charity tasked to fund research, education and treatment services to help minimise gambling-related harm in Great Britain.
- GambleAware is a commissioning and grant-making body, not a provider of services. The charity's strategic aim is to broaden public understanding of gambling-related harm as a public health issue and to help those that do develop problems get the support and help that they need quickly and effectively. For more information, please go to: <http://about.gambleaware.org/>
- GambleAware's programme of treatment, education, harm prevention and research is 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>.
- GambleAware requires a minimum of £10 million annually to deliver its current responsibilities, and looks to all those that profit from commercial gambling to support the charity. 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 RGSB endorsed GambleAware's £10m funding goal in January 2017: <http://www.rgsb.org.uk/press-releases/responsible-gambling-strategy-board-publishes-assessment-of-the-quantum-of-funding-required-to-deliver-the-national-responsible-gambling-strategy.html>
- GambleAware funds the *Gordon Moody Association*, the *NHS National Problem Gambling Clinic*, *GamCare* and a network of charities across Great Britain to provide a full range of free treatment for problem gamblers and support for those affected by them. GambleAware also runs the website **BeGambleAware.org** which helps 2.7 million visitors a year, and supports the **National Gambling Helpline – 0808 8020 133**.