

18 February 2022

Zoë Osmond  
CEO  
GambleAware  
Pennine Place  
2a Charing Cross Rd  
London WC2H 0HF

Dear Zoë,

**Ceasing of the dual commissioning and funding by Gamble Aware of the NHS elements of the problem gambling treatment pathway**

I am writing to inform you of our intention to end the current dual commissioning and funding arrangement that we have with GambleAware for the NHS specialist gambling clinics from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

We are very grateful to GambleAware for the funding that you have provided over the last 3 years, which has allowed us to roll out treatment services faster than would have otherwise been possible. However, as these become part of normal recurrent spending commitment and the number of clinics is expanded, we want to move the funding into general NHS funding, as is standard for other similar services.

Our decision has been heavily influenced by patients who have previously expressed concern about using services paid for directly by industry. Additionally, our clinicians feel there are conflicts of interest in their clinics being part-funded by resources from the gambling industry.

The NHS cannot address the harms caused by gambling alone, nor is it the NHS's job to tackle this on its own. We are therefore committed to maintaining a constructive operational relationship with GambleAware as this change is implemented and continuing to work together on developing a treatment system that is fit for purpose.

Gambling treatment services do not prevent people being harmed in the first place and we would like to see the industry take firm action so that people do not need to seek help from the NHS. We hope that you will continue to join us in calling for the gambling industry to be more heavily regulated and taxed to generate public funding to address gambling harms.

Yours sincerely,



**Claire Murdoch**  
National Mental Health Director