

## **Evaluation and Research Dissemination**

### **Statement**

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Lead

Helen Owen, Director of Evaluation and Monitoring

## About Us

GambleAware is an independent, grant-making charity commissioning prevention and treatment services across England, Scotland and Wales in partnership with expert organisations and agencies, including the NHS, across three areas:

- Commissioning the National Gambling Treatment Service
- Producing public health campaigns on a national scale and providing practical support to local services
- Commissioning research and evaluation to improve knowledge of what works in prevention.

Regulated by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, and the Scottish Charity Regulator, GambleAware is wholly independent and has a framework agreement with the Gambling Commission to deliver the National Strategy to Reduce Gambling Harms within the context of arrangements based on voluntary donations from the gambling industry.

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## Background: Collaborative Approach

GambleAware commissions evaluation and research to build knowledge of what works for whom in prevention, education, treatment, and support to prevent and reduce gambling harm. Our research is independent, and is undertaken with a view to informing policy, facilitating evidence-based discussion, and supporting the commissioning of services for people experiencing harms associated with gambling. GambleAware follows Research Council policy regarding research ethics, encouraging and funding open access publication in academic journals and data reuse, and has been approved by National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) as an NIHR non-commercial partner. Further information can be found here - <https://about.gambleaware.org/research/research-commissioning-governance-procedure/>

We work closely with stakeholders, involving them throughout the research and evaluation processes whilst maintaining the independence of our commissioned partners.

Stakeholders are actively involved from the inception of the project, for example where the research and evaluation objectives are set. We meet frequently during the active phases of evaluation, and we share the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation before publication.

GambleAware aims to be open and transparent with the research and evaluation projects that it manages and commissions. We take a number of steps to ensure that all research and evaluation outputs are publicly available, outlined below.

## Uses for Evaluation and Research

We use the evaluation and research evidence available to us to inform strategic decision-making through portfolio insight and analysis, research, and to improve what we do as a commissioner of services to prevent gambling harm.

We also use the evaluation and research evidence to prepare our annual impact report and to respond to information requests. Further to this, our evaluation and research inform our information campaigns, ad campaigns, and our future commissioning of research and evaluation.

We also provide the evidence to key stakeholders (eg. service delivery partners, Gambling Commission, NHSEI) to ensure knowledge is shared, activities are joined up and shared objectives met.

## Personal Data and Data Protection

All research and evaluation outputs that result from evaluation and research that we have commissioned are published on the [GambleAware website](#), including key findings as presented at seminars and conferences. We aim to publish all outputs within four months of completion.

We follow the [Information Commissioner's advice](#) with regards to the publication of data. Our research and evaluation outputs do not disclose personal data or information which might be considered confidential about any specific individual, without their informed consent.

This means that our outputs cannot be used to identify individuals involved in the work unless this information is already in the public domain (such as the names of authors and partner organisations).

### Data Protection

Data protection legal obligations should be taken as the starting point, and GambleAware expects all commissioned research partners to be observing legal requirements. Further to this, GambleAware expects data and identity of respondents to be protected over and above the legal minimum, as outlined in our guidelines for [Engaging and Involving People with Lived Experience of Gambling Harms in Research and Evaluation](#).

All evaluation and research fieldwork commissioned by GambleAware should conform to data protection regulations of the commissioned research partner, respecting *The Data Protection Act*; that is, the UK's implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Further information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/data-protection>

In summary, everyone responsible for using personal data has to follow strict rules called 'data protection principles'. They must make sure the information is:

- used fairly, lawfully and transparently
- used for specified, explicit purposes
- used in a way that is adequate, relevant and limited to only what is necessary
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- kept for no longer than is necessary
- handled in a way that ensures appropriate security, including protection against unlawful or unauthorised processing, access, loss, destruction or damage.

### Impact and Publicity

There are a range of ways in which GambleAware directly supports research partners to disseminate their evaluation and research findings. This includes:

- Publication of reports on GambleAware's website
- Making press announcements
- Social media activity
- Convening webinars, and
- Funding publication in open access journals (see below).

GambleAware grant agreements and service contracts detail a Media Protocol, which provides information about how we promote research and evaluation, and how we ask our partners to engage with the media

We also run information campaigns and ad campaigns that are widely disseminated, for example on the London Underground. These campaigns are informed by our research and evaluation.

Finally, responses to information requests are published on the [GambleAware website](#).

### **Further Options for Dissemination and Publication**

In addition, to the above, evaluation and research teams and their respective institutions and/or agencies will have their own ambitions for publishing and disseminating their research and evaluation that has been funded by GambleAware. These include institutional publication, peer-reviewed journal publication (both open access and behind paywall), peer-reviewed book chapter publication, and peer-reviewed book/monograph publication. GambleAware welcomes this wider publication and dissemination where it reflects our charitable objectives and ambition.

GambleAware should be notified about independent publication as stipulated in grant agreements or service contracts before any submissions are made. When GambleAware funds evaluation or research that result in independent publications, maximising impact and visibility involves consideration of what the impact of the publication is and whether a publication is open access. For further information on considerations of impact factor and open access publication (and associated fees), see GambleAware's guidelines for [Options and Considerations for Research Dissemination and Publication](#)

### **For more information**

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