

ABSG: Terms of Reference

Role

1. ABSG provides independent advice to the Gambling Commission.
2. ABSG's role includes:
 - providing independent advice to the Gambling Commission to help deliver the National Strategy to Reduce Gambling Harms
 - reporting on progress of the National Strategy
 - recommending priorities for research
 - providing advice on the prevention and treatment of gambling harms
 - working collaboratively with others who have expertise to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Scope

3. ABSG's advice covers a wide range of issues related to safer gambling. Their focus is articulated through a workplan, which is agreed between the Gambling Commission and the ABSG Chair.
4. ABSG's work will be carried out with regard to particular needs in Scotland, England and Wales.

Values

5. ABSG's values are:
 - integrity - we are honest, we listen to others and consider carefully diverse views
 - transparency - we are open
 - excellence - we are committed to high standards
 - collaborative - we work with others to reduce harm.
6. ABSG members will adhere the seven principles of public life,¹ a code of conduct and a conflicts of interest policy. Declarations of interest will be published on the ABSG website.

Membership

7. The Chair and members of ABSG are appointed by the Gambling Commission. They are appointed as individuals based on their expertise and experience. They do not serve on the Board to represent any other body or organisation.

¹ [Seven principles of public life](#), UK Government, May 1995

8. Members of ABSG are recruited to bring a wide range of experience, including:
 - consumer protection
 - public health
 - policy making
 - regulation
 - treatment, addiction and counselling expertise
 - economics
 - preventive education
 - research
 - psychology
 - social science.
9. The Chair and members of ABSG will serve terms of up to three-years and will serve for a maximum of six years.

Meetings

10. ABSG meet approximately every two months. In between meetings ABSG contribute advice as required through correspondence.
11. Time limited groups may be formed to develop specific pieces of advice.
12. Board meetings are routinely attended by relevant Gambling Commission staff as observers. Occasionally, sessions may be held in private if the Chair decides this is appropriate.
13. Minutes of Board meetings are published on the ABSG website.

Reporting and publication

14. ABSG reports to the CEO, Executive Group, and the Board of the Commission.
15. Formal written advice from ABSG will be published, alongside the Gambling Commission's response. ABSG has no decision-making role and will provide advice collectively.
16. The Chair is the sole public spokesperson for ABSG. If there are exceptions to this, will be agreed with the Chair of ABSG and the Gambling Commission in advance.

Resources

17. Secretariat support is provided through the Gambling Commission's Insight Team.

Review

18. These terms of reference will be reviewed annually in April to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

Updated: March 2020