

JERSEY GAMBLING COMMISSION

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8 February 2014

Review of help for compulsive gamblers

Methods of helping compulsive gamblers who want to stay out of betting shops will be looked at next year to see if more can be done.

The Social Responsibility Panel of the Jersey Gambling Commission plans to review the system of 'self-exclusion' in 2014. The system allows compulsive gamblers to 'self-exclude' by going to a bookmakers and signing a declaration that they do not want to be allowed to gamble there for a defined period.

The panel was established to gather the views of health professionals and the industry to inform policy and offer advice on protecting the vulnerable and helping people affected by problem gambling.

The work by the panel will consider whether an Island-wide system could be adopted whereby a compulsive gambler would be able to effectively bar themselves from every licensed bookmaker.

The Social Responsibility Panel's work programme for 2014 which also includes:

- Considering the provision of forms and leaflets about the options for help and support for compulsive gamblers.
- Looking at whether more education in schools and youth clubs would be appropriate.
- Keeping developments in the UK industry under review.
- Consider a new system of counselling being delivered through GP surgeries.
- Reviewing the existing www.gamblingtherapy.je website and consider alternatives.

The work of the Jersey Gambling Commission and the Social Responsibility Panel is funded by licence fees paid by the gambling industry, not by the taxpayer.

About the commission...

The Jersey Gambling Commission was established in September 2010 and is funded by licence fees, not the taxpayer. Its remit covers the regulation of gambling in the Island and advising the Economic Development Minister, Economic Affairs Scrutiny Panel and the States on policy and legislation. It also operates a dedicated gambling therapy service for Jersey residents at www.gamblingtherapy.je. The commission works to three guiding principles enshrined in law, namely that gambling services should be conducted responsibly and with safeguards necessary to protect children and vulnerable people; that they should be regulated in accordance with generally accepted international standards to prevent fraud and money laundering, and should not be permitted to be a source of crime; and that they should be verifiably fair to consumers of those services.