

APPENDIX B

Hello!

My name is Nas and I am the present secretary for Gamblers Anonymous (GA) in Swindon. I am also a compulsive gambler and have been off gambling, ONE DAY AT A TIME, for 18 years and 4 months. I was made aware of this gambling consultation from SBC (Gambling Act 2005 Act draft Statement of Principles) and I would like to comment on it, as bullet pointed on page 6,

“One or more persons who appear to the authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority’s functions under the Gambling Act 2005.”

I’ll expressing myself in three different ways;

- A. According to GA principles as interpreted by me and can be found in www.gamblersanonymous.org.uk.
- B. My therapy-that’s through my own personal experiences.
- C. My own personal view point.

Therefore perhaps a little history of GA in Swindon might be helpful. Since restarting GA in Swindon in 1997, we have managed to date holding 3 meetings a week at Gorsehill Community Centre. Over this period, we have had a number of successful recoveries, but admittedly many more who have come and gone for many various reasons. Our present members consist of both sexes, various religions, etc..and people from various walks of life, and that includes accountants, soldiers, businessmen, ex-offenders, venerable people, etc.. . We have members from Swindon and the surrounding area of Wiltshire. This is a self help group that individuals share their strength, hope and experiences to stay off gambling one day at a time.

Every recovery from this illness is personal. I joined GA on 1st April 1990 on a Wednesday evening in Glasgow. After several returns to gambling (B), I eventually seen the light and attend at least one meeting a week. I went through many rough times before I accepted my addition as an illness and now have a lifestyle that I can embrace and enjoy without gambling.

We have no views on outside issues (A), but I’d like to express my own personal view (C)

I have noticed that one of your licencing objectives is:-

☑ Provision of information leaflets / helpline numbers for organisations such as GamCare.

I would like to see (C) SBC implement the awareness of the existence of GA (A) in this objective. We have A5 posters/information leaflets and a local mobile Swindon helpline number.

I have periodically given out posters and literature to doctors surgeries, libraries, etc... I have had articles in the local newspaper and interviews on the local radio stations. But I feel that my proposal will have a better awareness of our existence for help for anyone that wants it in the gambling establishments in Swindon (the internet & telephone gambling is another issue). We can supply the necessary materials for these establishments in Swindon should this proposal be considered okay.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would require any more information.

My anonymity is such that I do not mind people knowing that I am a compulsive gambler. But in trying to keep to GA principles, I only give my first name.

Nas NGTR (No Gambling To Report)