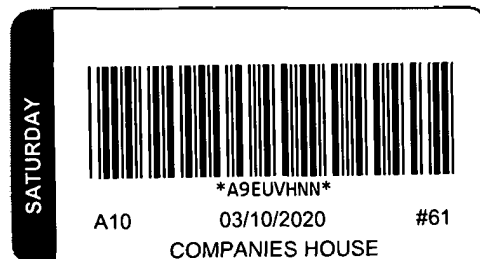
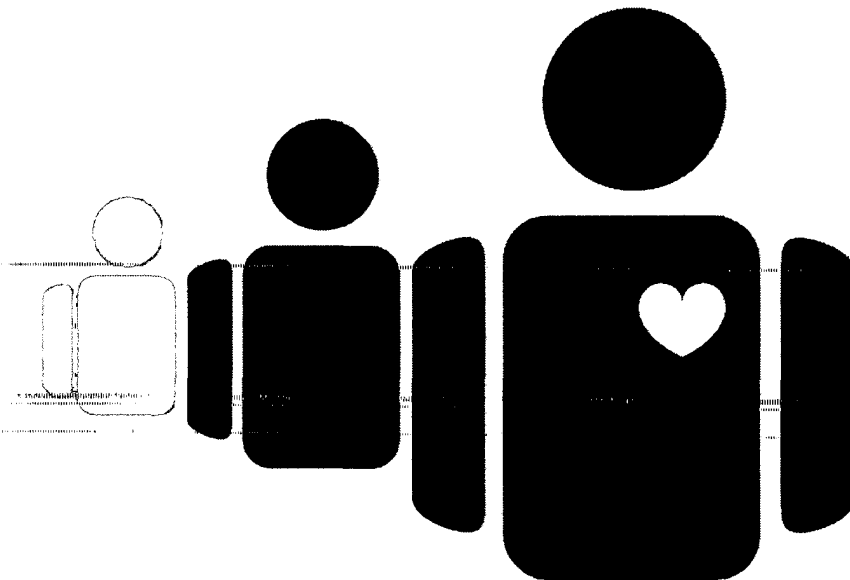


# Annual Report and Accounts

31 December 2019



The National Online Self  
Exclusion Scheme Limited  
(a Company Limited by Guarantee)  
[gamstop.co.uk](http://gamstop.co.uk)

We help to safeguard  
people from the harms  
of gambling addiction



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**GAMSTOP Board**  
Jenny Watson CBE (Chair)  
Jo Watts  
Kevin Beerling  
Roger Parkes  
Mike Dixon

**Registered Office:**  
3 Greengate, Cardale Park,  
Harrogate, HG3 1GY

**Registered Number:**  
10504973

**Contact Centre**  
[helpdesk@gamstop.co.uk](mailto:helpdesk@gamstop.co.uk)  
[media@gamstop.co.uk](mailto:media@gamstop.co.uk)

**CEO**  
Fiona Palmer

The National Online Self Exclusion Scheme Limited (Company Limited by Guarantee) trades as GAMSTOP. It is a not for profit organisation set up to design, introduce and run a national online self-exclusion scheme.

## Introduction

# Statement from the Chair

**Welcome to the first Annual Review for The National Online Self Exclusion Scheme Limited, operating as GAMSTOP. We want to outline the important work being carried out by the organisation and to put our financial statements into a broader context - and will do this every year in the future.**

It has been a period of rapid change and we are proud of the significant technical achievements that have been accomplished in recent months as the service has grown and been further developed to meet the needs of its users.

Alongside these technical changes, we have also reformed the governance of the scheme to ensure that we earn the trust of everyone who works with us. Three more independent Non-Executive Directors were appointed to the board in March and September 2019, resulting in a majority independent board, with only one operator representative remaining.

In addition, the ownership changed in September 2019, strengthening the organisation's independence from the industry; the current independent Non-Executive Directors, are now the members of the company, which remains a not for profit entity.

With those structural changes in place, we can be very positive about the strategic direction of the organisation. We have taken steps to improve the consumer journey and we can now focus on raising consumer awareness of GAMSTOP as a fully functioning national online self-exclusion service, part of the range of options available, alongside treatment, to help people tackle their gambling. We know from the testimonials we receive just how valuable those who use our service find it to be - their words continue to inspire all of us at GAMSTOP.



---

*Jenny Watson CBE*

03



## **Our Purpose**

**We help to  
safeguard people  
from the harms of  
gambling addiction**

“

**GAMSTOP is vital to stop  
a problem gambling habit,  
don't let anyone tell you it  
doesn't help. It does - a lot.**

**-GAMSTOP service user**

## Our Vision

To be the effective and trusted national self-exclusion service: valued by users, actively promoted by key stakeholders and independent from the industry

## Our Values



**Open**

We are transparent about what we do and how we do things, building trust with each other and our stakeholders to achieve more.



**Connected**

We connect and collaborate internally and externally, creating strong relationships with our users and stakeholders.



**Integrity**

We always strive to do the right thing for our users and stakeholders, building confidence in our organisation and our people.



**Courageous**

We are bold, challenging the status quo, ourselves and each other. We embrace change and strive to continuously improve.

**Review of 2019****Operational Overview**

**Since the first phase of GAMSTOP was launched in April 2018, the service has undergone significant changes, but there has been one constant: our mission to help individuals with gambling issues to take back control.**

**By December 2019, the end-date of this annual review, nearly all online operators had voluntarily integrated with the scheme, ahead of an announcement by the Gambling Commission making it a licensing condition for them to be members of GAMSTOP from 31st March 2020.**

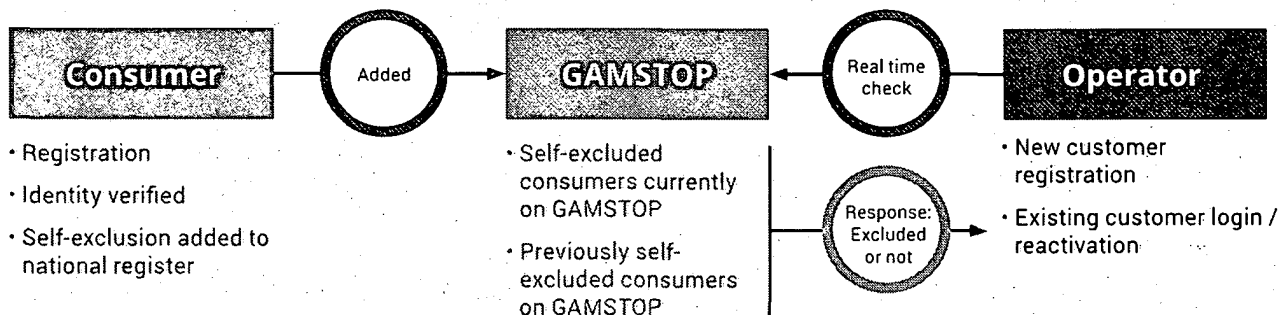
**GAMSTOP is a free service available to all consumers resident within the United Kingdom. Users choose to exclude themselves from all online gambling sites licensed in Great Britain for a specified period and, once that minimum period has elapsed, they remain self-excluded unless they return to GAMSTOP to ask to be removed and successfully complete the process to end their self-exclusion.**

**Anyone who is identified as having an active self-exclusion on GAMSTOP is immediately blocked from being able to gamble by the operator. This check is performed in real time and takes less than a second to complete.**

**Setting up and successfully implementing this system effectively was a complex technical project as it needed to be robust enough to deal with millions of checks being made by operators every day.**

**In 2019, the matching criteria was enhanced to ensure that the best possible protection is provided to those who register. There were further improvements to three elements of the scheme:**

- Consumers can now set up their own account and add details to their registration**
- They can automatically be transferred to a manual ID verification process if they cannot complete online verification**
- They can quickly and easily extend their exclusions, should they wish to do so. These improvements, and many more planned for 2020, stem from our core objectives – to be a trusted partner and provide a positive experience for those who need us.**



GAMSTOP provides a self-help tool for users to give themselves breathing space and to seek help. People generally register with us when they have reached a decision that they want to stop gambling. It is a big decision to make, but from the feedback we have received from users we know it is normally a relief.

But we know that self-exclusion is just one tool and does not offer a complete solution. When someone registers with us, they are often looking for advice, further information, or access to specialist treatment.

We encourage them to seek professional help and support from treatment providers. We promote blocking software and bank blocking functionality as complementary tools that, when used in conjunction with GAMSTOP, will give greater protection to vulnerable individuals.

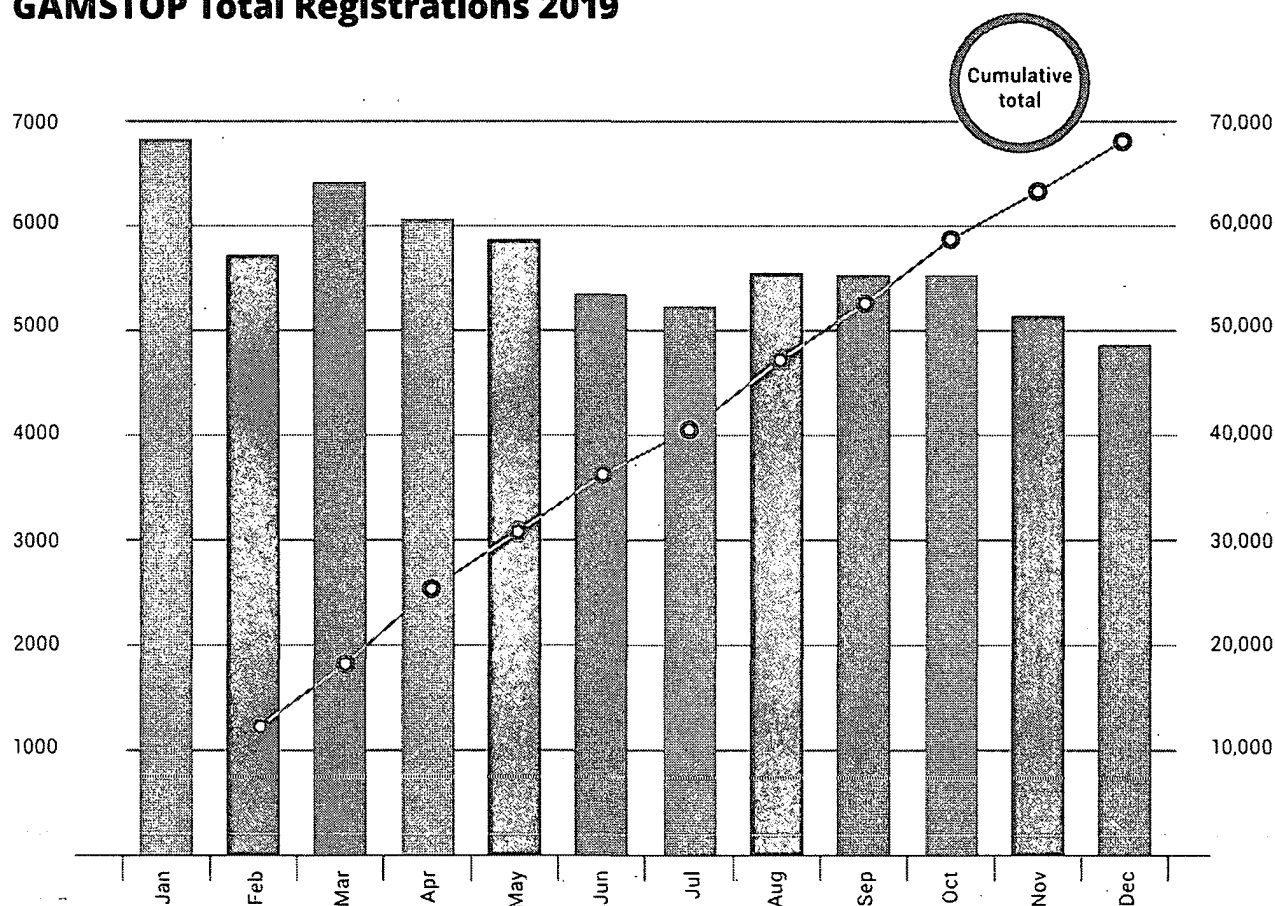
Our aim is to ensure that these practical tools, and other multi-operator self-exclusion schemes, work seamlessly together to provide people with exactly what they need when they reach for it. We are committed to working collaboratively with all groups, organisations, charities and businesses who share our vision and can help us achieve it.



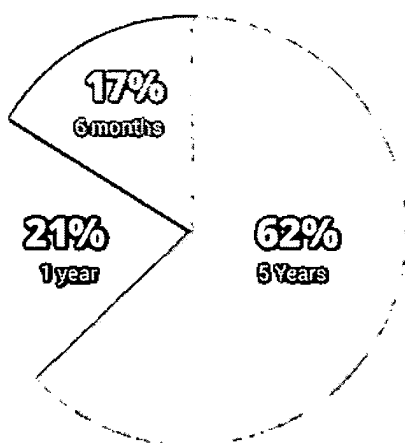
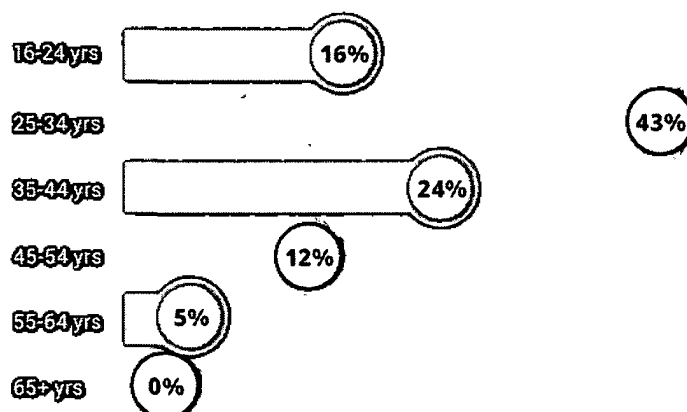
*Fiona Palmer, CEO*

**Impact Assessment****Overview**

GAMSTOP's self-exclusion service has played an important role in supporting people who want to regain control over their gambling issues, with an overall total of 116,237 registrations by the end of 2019. Our impact can be demonstrated in a number of tangible ways:

**GAMSTOP Total Registrations 2019**



**Exclusion period selected****Age profile of users at registration****68,141**

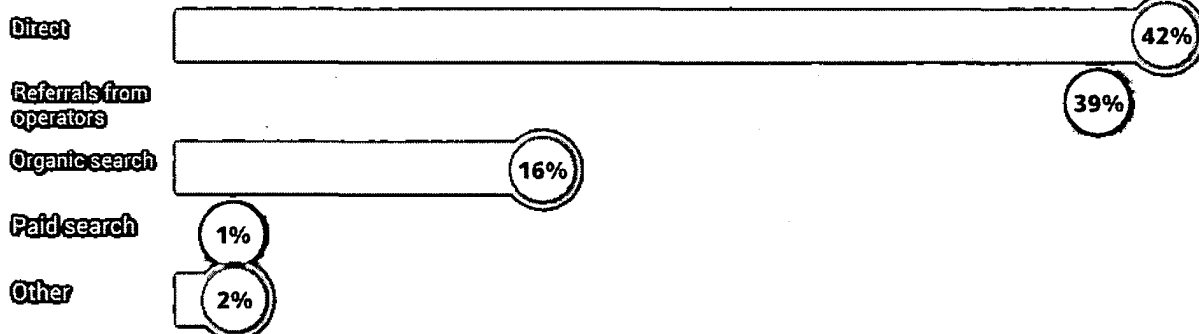
Total Registrations

**67,577**

Total new self-exclusions

**2,646**

Users with less than a month left on their exclusion period

**Source of traffic to the Gamstop website**

Note: Data sourced from GAMSTOP system / Google Analytics, between 1st January and 31st December 2019

## Impact Assessment

# Case Study

**Chris Murphy, 34, is a PDC Darts Commentator, PDPA Communications Manager and Gambling Specialist in Sporting Chance's Education department. Aged 23, he tried to take his own life as the emotional and financial implications of his addiction reached their apex.**

I was 17 when I placed my first bet, it was a £2 stake on a football accumulator and I ended up winning £350. Within weeks I was addicted to gambling and had dropped out of college. I lost at least £100,000 through my addiction, and ultimately tried to take my own life. People focus on the money that you lose, but I would argue that the relationships you lose and the emotional and mental toll that takes is more damaging.

GAMSTOP has been a gamechanger for me. It has proved to be an important safety net at times when I have felt vulnerable and has allowed me the breathing space for gambling urges to pass.

GAMSTOP is not an ultimate solution for my gambling addiction but it is a vital part of a practical toolkit that creates the space for a gambling addict like me to pursue treatment and recovery with a reduced risk of relapse.

In my own experience, the ability to pause and think is crucial. In active gambling addiction, I never had the ability to do that until it was too late. If you are considering gambling due to boredom, financial pressure, insecurity, or instability then it is crucial to pause and recognise that gambling is only likely to make your problems worse.



66

**I feel very hopeful about my future, and that is something I have never felt before.**

**Taking action, such as self-exclusion – particularly blanket self-exclusion through GAMSTOP – can help remove the temptation to try to use gambling as a solution to financial or emotional problems.**

**You can also use blocking software for gambling adverts and websites, and at times I have given a trusted other control over my finances to give me the space I needed.**

**Once these practical measures are in place, the most important advice I can give is to seek help. There are many peer-to-peer support groups that have therapeutic benefits of attending, and professional help is now more widely available than ever through the NHS.**

**It is important to remember that you are not alone, you are not weak, and that you can be supported to address this problem. Picking up the phone at the point of crisis to a friend, family member or crisis support service, such as Samaritans, can make all the difference.**

**I have not felt the need to gamble in the last 18 months, I have wanted to, but not needed to, and there is a big difference between the two. I feel very hopeful about my future, and that is something I have never felt before. It is likely that I won't gamble again, and that is a big statement for me.**

## Impact Assessment

# Case Study

**Matt Blanks, 36, is Project Manager at Peer Aid, a scheme that uses lived experience and mentorship to help those suffering from gambling addiction. Matt began gambling aged just 11, losing more than £700,000. The turning point in his addiction came when he tried to take his own life.**

I was just 11 years old when my parents decided to divorce. It was a difficult time in my life emotionally, and I would spend the weekends with my grandfather, who would have a bet every weekend on horses. One day he asked me to pick a horse and it won, despite the odds being 33:1. He gave me £30 as a treat and that made my first experience of gambling a rewarding one.

From that moment, gambling became more and more embedded in my life, and in my personality.

I worked for over a decade in the industry and people used to talk to me about gambling and ask for my expertise, and that is something I enjoyed.

I did not realise how bad my gambling had got, and when I eventually did wake up to how much trouble I was in I lost over £700,000 and lost relationships with loved ones that will never recover. I tried to take my own life. That was my lowest point, but when I was unsuccessful, that was my catalyst for change.

I reached out for help, started talking to people, and GAMSTOP was a total lifesaver for me. I used to have to exclude from each individual gambling operator, and it made it almost impossible to stop. As soon as I had one exclusion in place, another operator cropped up. GAMSTOP has changed all of that for me, the ease of being able to register and exclude from every site in the UK is so much more effective.



**If you are seeking help, I would advise taking a rounded approach. There are people out there who you can talk to and reaching out is crucial if you are to seek treatment and help in the longer-term. GAMSTOP is a vital tool in allowing you to do this, it gives you that moment's pause, that bit of breathing space, to ensure that when you have an urge or impulse, you can't place a bet in that moment. That time to reflect can make all the difference.**

**I now use my lived experience to help others. However bad things seem, you can always reach out and speak to someone. I couldn't see a way out on the day I tried to take my own life, but my message to others is that there is always hope, and there are tools and people out there to help you through your addiction.**

“

**My message to others is that there is always hope. Help is out there.**

**The National Online Self Exclusion Scheme Limited  
Annual Report and Accounts**

## **Corporate Governance**

**The Board of Directors provide challenge and expertise in key areas to support the operational team. This, in turn, ensures that the scheme is well placed to develop and continue to grow as it moves towards becoming mandatory for all British licensed operators in early 2020.**

“

**The GAMSTOP website  
helps people like  
myself who get carried  
away with gambling.**



**Jenny Watson, CBE – Chair\***

Jenny brings a wealth of experience in social responsibility projects and regulation in the public interest. A former Chair of the Electoral Commission, she is currently the Chair of a social purpose business, The House of St. Barnabas as well as the Independent Complaints Panel of the Portman Group.



**Dr Jo Watts\***

Jo is a specialist within the data and analytics sector, spending much of the last 15 years working in customer analytics and risk management. She currently runs a data science company and sits on the Board of the Data Lab. Her insight and experience provide the technical operational team with strong independent challenge and input.



**Kevin Beerling FCA\***

Kevin has a strong financial and commercial background with over 20 years Board level experience, most recently as Group Finance Director of the Prospects Group. His wider Board level responsibilities have included legal services, risk management and HR. Kevin is also non-executive Chairman of 3BM Ltd, an employee owned company.



**Roger Parkes**

Roger is an original GAMSTOP Board Director and was part of the Remote Gambling Association Steering Group set up to scope out the scheme. He is currently Director of Compliance and Regulatory Affairs at Betway Ltd and has previously worked at the Gambling Commission and Alderney Gambling Control Commission.



**Mike Dixon\***

Mike Dixon is the CEO of the Liberal Democrats having previously been the Chief Executive of Addaction and the Assistant Chief Executive of Citizens Advice. His depth of experience within the voluntary sector brings focus on the needs of the GAMSTOP service users.

*\*Independent Non-Executive Director*

## **The National Online Self Exclusion Scheme Limited Annual Report and Accounts**

# **Directors' Report**

**The directors present their report and the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2019.**

### **Directors**

The directors who served the company during the year were as follows:

Ms J Watson

Mr R Parkes

Dr J Watts

*(Appointed 1 March 2019)*

Mr K M Beerling

*(Appointed 1 March 2019)*

Mr M Dixon

*(Appointed 9 September 2019)*

Mr C Hawkswood

*(Resigned 19 February 2019)*

Mr C Hobbs

*(Resigned 9 September 2019)*

Mr G Weir

*(Resigned 19 February 2019)*

### **Directors' responsibilities statement**

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the profit or loss of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.



The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

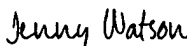
#### **Auditor**

Each of the persons who is a director at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as a director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

#### **Small company provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption. This report was approved by the board of directors on 15 September 2020 and signed on behalf of the board by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
3E5AC2F0D2454E6...

Ms J Watson  
Chair

Registered office:  
3 Greengate  
Cardale Park  
Harrogate  
England  
HG3 1GY



## **The National Online Self Exclusion Scheme Limited Annual Report and Accounts**

# **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members**

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The National Online Self Exclusion Scheme Limited (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the statement of income and retained earnings, statement of financial position and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

### **Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with chapter 3 of part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Andrew Wild BA FCA (*Senior Statutory Auditor*)

For and on behalf of  
TLP Consulting Limited  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor  
3 Greengate  
Cardale Park  
Harrogate  
HG3 1GY

15 September 2020

**The National Online Self Exclusion Scheme Limited  
Annual Report and Accounts**

# Statement of Income and Retained Earnings

For the year ended 31 December 2019

		<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	Note	£	£
<b>Turnover</b>		<b>3,175,248</b>	3,808,970
Cost of sales		<u>(1,104,103)</u>	<u>(1,456,130)</u>
<b>Gross profit</b>		<b>2,071,145</b>	2,352,840
Administrative expenses		<u>(2,020,074)</u>	<u>(1,226,847)</u>
<b>Operating profit</b>		<b>51,071</b>	1,125,993
<b>Profit before taxation</b>	6	<b>51,071</b>	1,125,993
Tax on profit		<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<b>Profit for the financial year and total comprehensive income</b>		<b>51,071</b>	1,125,993
Retained losses at the start of the year		<u>(51,071)</u>	<u>(1,177,064)</u>
<b>Retained losses at the end of the year</b>		<u>—</u>	<u>(51,071)</u>

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 25 to 30 form part of these financial statements

**The National Online Self Exclusion Scheme Limited  
Annual Report and Accounts**

# Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2019

		<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>	Note		
Intangible assets	7	<b>2,958,616</b>	2,350,076
Tangible assets	8	<b>10,207</b>	10,135
		<b>2,968,823</b>	2,360,211
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	9	<b>196,620</b>	165,322
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>2,280,139</b>	2,075,891
		<b>2,476,759</b>	2,241,213
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	<b>(3,815,582)</b>	(2,207,495)
<b>Net current (liabilities)/assets</b>		<b>(1,338,823)</b>	33,718
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>1,630,000</b>	2,393,929
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	11	<b>(1,630,000)</b>	(2,445,000)
<b>Net liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	(51,071)
<b>Capital and reserves</b>			
Profit and loss account		<b>-</b>	(51,071)
<b>Members deficit</b>		<b>-</b>	(51,071)

The notes on pages 25 to 30 form part of these financial statements

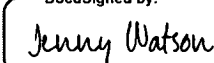
**The National Online Self Exclusion Scheme Limited  
Annual Report and Accounts**

# **Statement of Financial Position**

As at 31 December 2019

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 15 September 2020 and are signed on behalf of the board by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
3E5AC2F0D2454E6...

Ms J Watson  
Chair  
Company registration number: 10504973

The notes on pages 25 to 30 form part of these financial statements



## **The National Online Self Exclusion Scheme Limited Annual Report and Accounts**

# **Notes to the Financial Statements**

Year ended 31 December 2019

### **1. General information**

The company is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 3 Greengate, Cardale Park, Harrogate, HG3 1GY, England.

### **2. Statement of compliance**

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Section 1A of FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'.

### **3. Accounting policies**

#### **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

### **Going concern**

The Directors confirm that, after reviewing expenditure commitments, expected cash flows and borrowing facilities, they have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the next financial year and the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

### **Judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgments are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

### **Revenue recognition**

Revenue is recognised to the extent the company has rendered services under an agreement, the amount of revenue can be measured reliably and it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the company. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration receivable, exclusive of sales taxes and discounts.

The company principally obtains revenue from providing operators access to its online database, for which it charges a one off registration fee and an annual licence (access) fee. Revenue from registration fees are recognised at the time of receipt. Revenue from annual licences is deferred and recognised over the period in which services are expected to be provided to the customer.

#### **Income tax**

Current tax is recognised on taxable profit for the current and past periods. Current tax is measured at the amounts of tax expected to pay or recover using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

#### **Foreign currencies**

Foreign currency transactions are initially recorded in the functional currency, by applying the spot exchange rate as at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate ruling at the reporting date, with any gains or losses being taken to the profit and loss account.

#### **Operating leases**

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

#### **Intangible assets**

Intangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Any intangible assets carried at revalued amounts, are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation, as determined by reference to an active market, less any subsequent accumulated amortisation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. Intangible assets acquired as part of a business combination are only recognised separately from goodwill when they arise from contractual or other legal rights, are separable, the expected future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value can be measured reliably.

#### **Amortisation**

Amortisation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful life of that asset as follows:

Software - 3 years Straight line

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in amortisation rate, useful life or residual value of an intangible asset, the amortisation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

### **Tangible assets**

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in equity in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in equity in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

### **Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Equipment - 20% reducing balance

### **Impairment of fixed assets**

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the company are assigned to those units.

### **Financial instruments**

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

#### **Defined contribution plans**

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in profit or loss in the period in which it arises.

#### **4. Company limited by guarantee**

The company is limited by guarantee of members and does not have a share capital. The liability of members is limited to £1.

#### **5. Employee numbers**

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year amounted to 5 (2018:3).

**6. Profit before taxation**

Profit before taxation is stated after charging:

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	<b>£</b>	£
Amortisation of intangible assets	<b>1,343,788</b>	623,711
Depreciation of tangible assets	<b>2,251</b>	1,539

**7. Intangible assets****Cost**

At 1 January 2019

Additions

Software  
£

2,973,787

1,952,328

**At 31 December 2019****4,926,115****Amortisation**

At 1 January 2019

Charge for the year

623,711

1,343,788

**At 31 December 2019****1,967,499****Carrying amount****At 31 December 2019****2,958,616**

At 31 December 2018

2,350,076

**8. Tangible assets****Cost**

At 1 January 2019

Additions

Equipment  
£

11,674

2,323

**At 31 December 2019****13,997****Depreciation**

At 1 January 2019

Charge for the year

1,539

2,251

**At 31 December 2019****3,790****Carrying amount****At 31 December 2019****10,207**

At 31 December 2018

10,135

**9. Debtors**

	2019	2018
	£	£
Trade debtors	2,053	33,097
Prepayments and accrued income	39,152	–
Other debtors	155,415	132,225
	<u>196,620</u>	<u>165,322</u>

**10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2019	2018
	£	£
Trade creditors	92,465	108,978
Accruals and deferred income	2,893,320	1,253,815
Social security and other taxes	13,495	29,702
Other creditors	816,302	815,000
	<u>3,815,582</u>	<u>2,207,495</u>

**11. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**

	2019	2018
	£	£
Other creditors	<u>1,630,000</u>	<u>2,445,000</u>

**12. Operating leases**

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2019	2018
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	8,729	6,980
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	–	1,000
	<u>8,729</u>	<u>7,980</u>

“

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