

Entain Half Year Results 2022

Barry Gibson, Chairman of Entain plc

Video Transcript

Hi, I'm Barry Gibson, and I'm the Chairman of Entain plc.

Alongside our results today, we've provided an update in respect of the HMRC investigation into our former Turkish-facing, online betting and gaming business, which we disposed of back in 2017.

Whilst negotiations with the CPS remain ongoing, we believe that they have progressed to the point where we are likely to be able to agree a resolution to the investigation, subject to Court approval.

We have therefore announced today that we have made a provision of £585m against a potential settlement, which will be payable over a four year period.

We are very pleased indeed to be making good progress towards drawing a line under this historical issue, which relates to a business that was sold by a former management team of the Group nearly six years ago.

The Entain of today bears no resemblance to the GVC of yesterday, which had a different management team, a different strategy and – to be blunt – different standards.

So why and how is Entain different today?

Over the last few years, we have taken very deliberate steps to drive a complete transformation to become a best-in-class, and responsible operator, with outstanding corporate governance.

Every aspect of our business model, strategy and culture has been reviewed, analysed and changed.

We've carried out a complete overhaul of the Board and leadership team, and we have a fantastic CEO in Jette Nygaard-Andersen.

She is from outside our industry and has a background of running fast-growing digital entertainment companies.

One of the many reasons that I picked Jette for the role is that she so clearly has an ethos of "doing the right thing".

She has since handpicked a leadership team around her who share the same philosophy.

I am very confident in saying that the culture of the two businesses is worlds apart and that Entain is a very different business today.

I am pleased that the CPS has recognised our extensive co-operation, which I think is a reflection of who we are today rather than the culture of old.

We now have a very straightforward approach when choosing where in the world we operate. All of our revenue is from regulated or regulating markets, and we are proud to be the only global operator that can make that 100% claim.

If a market isn't showing signs of having a clear road to regulation, then we leave – it's as simple as that.

More broadly, our philosophy is that the most sustainable business in our industry will be the most successful business in our industry, and that drives everything from our long-term growth plans to the way we aim to treat all of our stakeholders - from customers, shareholders, colleagues, regulators, and business partners.

For instance, we've developed an innovative and industry-leading technology – known as ARC - to keep our customers safe. It uses the very latest technologies and analysis to identify and protect the very small minority of players who are at risk of developing harmful habits, while allowing everyone to enjoy our products.

We were also the first operator to commit to spending 1% of our UK gross gambling revenue on Research, Education and Treatment, and the first to end shirt sponsorship deals in UK football.

Through the Entain Foundation, we've committed £100m over five years to make a positive contribution to the communities we operate in.

Our goal is to positively impact the lives of over one million people around the world by 2030, either directly or through their families and their dependents.

None of this is to say that we're complacent. There is still a huge amount more for us to do, not least in capturing the growth opportunities that we see in front of us.

These are exciting times for our industry as the worlds of entertainment, media and gaming converge, so in many ways we are only just getting started.

In summary, we're getting to a place where we can focus entirely on Entain's future, rather than concerning ourselves with GVC's past.