

Gambling Act 2005

Consultation

Gambling (Lottery Machine Interval) Order

RESPONSE BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMISSION

- 1 The National Lottery Commission is the regulator of the National Lottery and has a statutory responsibility to exercise its functions in a manner most likely to secure:
 - that the National Lottery is run with all due propriety;
 - that the interests of participants are protected; and
 - subject to these duties to secure that the net proceeds of the National Lottery are as great as possible.
- 2 The National Lottery Commission has granted a licence under section 5 of The National Lottery etc. Act 1993 (as amended) to Camelot Group plc to operate the National Lottery. This licence extends until 2009.
- 3 Lotteries which form part of the National Lottery are subject to detailed and robust regulation which reflects the Commission's overriding duties, as set out in paragraph 1.
- 4 The Commission has no comment on the proposed Order, but would like to comment on the wider regulatory regime for lottery vending machines (Q5).
- 5 The Commission has previously supported proposals put forward by Camelot to amend the Regulations to permit the sale of National Lottery tickets by unsupervised machines, subject to the appropriate regulatory control by the Commission to secure player protection. Those proposals were rejected in 2006. The Commission's position is unchanged.
- 6 The Commission considers that the change in Government policy to permit the sale of society or local lottery tickets by machine is inconsistent with the prohibition on the sale of National Lottery tickets by machine and that it is not clear what the reason for this inconsistency is.
- 7 The Commission has been provided with information by Camelot which suggests that the potential for the sale of lottery tickets by machine may be significant. The Commission is concerned that the National Lottery will be adversely affected by the ability of society and local lotteries to take advantage of an opportunity which is not available to the National Lottery.
- 8 The Commission, while supporting an amendment to the Regulations, has yet to be convinced that player protection measures have been designed which will prevent the risks of under-age or excessive play. The Commission would welcome the opportunity to participate in any discussion about such safeguards and to further explain how it has approached this issue.

21 May 2007