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National Lottery Commission consultation on the use of gaming and betting themes on National Lottery Scratchcard games

Response from the Association of British Bookmakers (ABB)

The ABB represents operators of betting shops. There are approximately 8,700 betting shops in Great Britain, and over 80% are operated by ABB members. Our membership ranges from one shop sole traders through to national chains listed on the stock exchange.

This consultation concerns the use of gaming or betting themes on National Lottery games.

The National Lottery is treated as a special case by the Government. Its products are not subject to the same regulation as other gambling products e.g. advertising. This two-speed regulation potentially serves to distort markets, which is contrary to competition policy. It follows that Scratchcards should not show any gaming or betting products. In particular, we wish to object to the proposal at paragraph 4.8 that titles of national sporting events, such as The Grand National, be permitted. ●