



National Lottery
Commission

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Response to the DCMS Consultation Tote Commercial Freedoms

June 2010

NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMISSION REPONSE
To the DCMS Consultation on Tote Commercial Freedoms

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1. Introduction

1.1 In 1993, Parliament passed The National Lottery etc. Act which set up a National Lottery together with its own dedicated regulator and a system of distributing its proceeds to specified good causes.

1.2 The National Lottery Commission ('the Commission') is the regulator of the National Lottery – sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. It has specific statutory duties to exercise its functions in the manner most likely to secure:

- That the National Lottery is run with all due propriety;
- That the interests of players are protected; and
- Subject to the above two duties, that the returns to good causes are as great as possible.

1.3 The Commission welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation

1.4 The Commission does not oppose the proposals to allow the Tote to take pool betting on other sports. We do, however, think that the Department needs to carefully consider the impact of any changes on the National Lottery.

2. Commission Response

Question 3: Do you believe that the current proposal should be widened to allow the Tote to operate pool betting on any event (excluding the outcome of the National Lottery)?

2.1 If the Tote is allowed greater freedom to offer pool betting the Commission agrees that this should not be extended to pool betting on the outcome of the National Lottery.

Question 5: Do you agree that the proposal would not have a significant negative impact on existing operators?

2.2 The consultation paper highlights in section 2.1 that pool betting operates in the same market as the National Lottery. The Commission therefore believes that care should be taken that the proposals do not have an unintentional adverse impact on the National Lottery and the returns it gives to good causes.

If the proposals are implemented then the impact on the National Lottery should be monitored closely.

Question 6: Do you agree with the assumptions in the initial Impact Assessment? If not, please provide any additional information that may be useful in completing a full Impact Assessment.

2.3 The Impact Assessment does not consider the potential impact on the Lottery and returns to good causes. Any full Impact Assessment should take this into consideration.