



National Lottery
Commission

Department of Social Development:
Consultation on the future regulation of
gambling in Northern Ireland

Response from the National Lottery Commission

Response

1 June 2011

NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMISSION REPONSE
To the Department of Social Development: Future Regulation of
Gambling in Northern Ireland
May 2011

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 most recent figures on the DCMS website notes that the National Lottery has made 16,699 grants in Northern Ireland totalling £845,264,237.

1.4 The Commission welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation. While the regulation of the National Lottery is not a devolved issue, changes to wider gambling policy in Northern Ireland have the potential to have an impact on the running of the National Lottery.

1.5 The Commission has focused our response section on Lotteries (4.4).

2. Response

2.1 It is important that the clear distinction between society lotteries and the National Lottery is maintained. If society lotteries are allowed to offer very large jackpot prizes the distinct nature of the National Lottery could be lost. This could threaten the amount of money that flows to good causes from the National Lottery.

2.2 The National Lottery Commission does not object to the changes proposed in this consultation as they do not relax the rules for society lotteries beyond the rules for those in Great Britain and appear to maintain the distinction between society lotteries and the National Lottery.

2.3 The National Lottery Commission would however object to increasing the potential available jackpots for society lotteries over and above the current level available in the rest of the UK.