



The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries & Amusements (NI) Order 1985

Notes of Guidance – Lotteries

LOTTERIES REQUIRING REGISTRATION BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

Societies' Lotteries

“**Society’s Lottery**” means a lottery promoted on behalf of a society which is established and conducted wholly or mainly for one or more of the following:-

- (a) charitable purposes;
- (b) participation in or support of athletic sports or games or cultural activities;
- (c) purposes which are not described in sub-paragraph (a) or (b) but are neither purposes of private gain nor purposes of any commercial undertaking.

Rules for Societies Lotteries

1. “Lottery” means a society’s lottery.
2. The promoter of the lottery shall be a member of the society authorised in writing by the governing body of the society to act as the promoter.
3. Every ticket and every notice or advertisement of the lottery lawfully exhibited, distributed or published shall specify the name of the society, the name and address of the promoter and the date of the lottery.
4. No society shall hold more than one lottery in any period of seven days.
5. No ticket or chance in a lottery shall be sold at a price exceeding £100.00
6. The price of every ticket or chance shall be the same, and the price of every ticket shall be stated on the ticket.
7. No persons shall be admitted to participate in a lottery in respect of a ticket or chance except after payment to the society of the whole price of the ticket or chance; and no money received for on account of a ticket or chance shall in any circumstances be returned.
8. The price shown on every ticket shall be the whole price paid for it.

9. The total proceeds from the sale of the tickets or chances shall constitute the whole proceeds of the lottery.
10. Subject to the conditions governing the lottery, participation in the lottery shall depend on the purchase of a ticket or chance in it.
11. No prize in a lottery shall exceed 10 per cent of the proceeds of the lottery.
12. The total value of the tickets or chances sold in a lottery shall not exceed £80,000 for any single lottery or £1,000,000 for all lotteries promoted by any society in any year.
13. The amounts of the proceeds of a lottery appropriated for the provision of prizes shall not be less than 30 percent, nor exceed 50 percent of the proceedings of the lottery.
14. The amount of the proceeds of a lottery appropriated on account of expenses (exclusive of prizes) shall not exceed whichever is the less of –
 - (a) the expenses actually incurred; or
 - (b) whichever of the amounts specified in paragraph (15) applies.
15. The amounts referred to in paragraph (14)(b) are –
 - (a) where the whole proceeds of the lottery do not exceed £10,000, 20 percent of those proceeds; or
 - (b) where the whole proceeds of the lottery exceed £10,000, 15 percent of those proceeds.
16. A society shall not employ any person as an external lottery consultant or manager unless that person holds a lottery certificate.
17. The promoter of a lottery shall, not later than the end of the third month after the date of the lottery, send a return in the form prescribed.
18. Every registered society shall keep copies of any return sent under paragraph (17) together with copies of supporting bills, receipts and accounts for a period of at least 18 months and during that period shall supply, on request, a copy of that return and these other documents to the Council or any member of the PSNI.
19. Any officers of the Council authorised in writing in that behalf may, on the production, if required, of his credentials, at any reasonable time, enter any office of a registered society and –
 - (a) inspect the records of the society; and
 - (b) inspect the promotion of any lottery.
20. Every person who obstructs an officer of the Council in the exercise of the powers conferred by Paragraph (19) shall be guilty of an offence.