

Rationale For Not Complying With Bill Commencement Dates

NATIONAL LOTTERY ACT 2006: COMMENCEMENT OF PROVISIONS

The passage of the National Lottery Bill through Parliament has been delayed considerably during this session's packed legislative timetable. Once the Bill receives its Royal Assent which is expected in Summer 2006, it will be important for us to commence certain provisions of the Act as early possible.

We will need to commence section 14* and schedule 2 of the Act immediately after Royal Assent so we can appoint an interim Big Lottery Fund Board and consult them on Orders and directions to be issued by the Secretary of State in relation to Big Lottery Fund expenditure. We are working towards a vesting date - when the permanent Board will be appointed, when we will commence sections 7, 15 and 20 of the Act giving the Fund its new functions, and when we will dissolve the New Opportunities Fund and the Community Fund - of 1 December.

We intend to commence the rest of the Act (apart from section 9) on the next common commencement date for legislation of 1 October 2006. We will delay commencement of section 9 which provides for the redistribution of investment income earned on Lottery balances across distributors. It makes sense to commence such a provision at the beginning of a new financial year.

(*Please note that Bills refer to clauses and Acts to sections. Once this Bill becomes an Act some of the section numbers will change, for example clause 13 will become section 14. The section numbers show here reflect how we expect the finalised Act to be)