

Colin Ferry

Clements News

Clements (Portrush) Ltd.
Bruntsfield House
44-46 Main Street
Portrush
BT56 8BL

Tel: 028 7082 3749.

Fax: 028 7082 3227.

E-mail: eddie.clements@btinternet.com

The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP
Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH

18th March 2004.

Dear Secretary of State

I am very concerned to read of proposals to allow more than one operator to run The National Lottery. The lottery is an important part of our business and we would not like to see changes made which will put this income at risk.

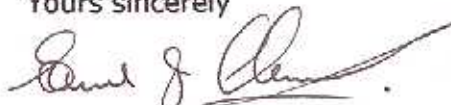
I am worried about the impact on our shop, in terms of space and the time staff will need to spend dealing with salespeople from several different operators. We operate on tight margins, as all small retailers do, and anything that does not make the most efficient use of space (I would assume that more operators would require more terminals, phone lines, and power points) or consumes unnecessary staff time needs to be eliminated if our business is to survive to serve to need of my customers.

I am also worried that there will no longer be a single helpline for staff to call with any queries we have about National Lottery draws and scratchcards. This means support for our staff will be weaker and their ability to confidently promote lottery sales and raise money for Good Causes will be lessened.

If there are several operators selling different lottery products, I believe that players will be confused and be less likely to spend their money playing lottery games. Additionally, if interest in The National Lottery falls, we will be less likely to benefit from the extra customers which it brings into our shop - who buy lottery tickets but also spend money on our other products as well.

If you could pass this letter to your colleagues at the Draft Gaming Bill Consultation team with in your Department.

Yours sincerely



Edward J Clements

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Department for Culture, Media and Sport	
DATE	18 MAR 2004
BY	19/04/04
FOR	Official Hours
AS APPROVED	
FOR INFORMATION OF	
PCV REF	03/35089