



The Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice

President: Algernon Heber-Percy,
H.M. Lord Lieutenant for Shropshire

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Peter Bradley MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

5 February 2004

Dear Mr Bradley

Re : The Draft Gambling Bill

I am writing to express our concern at the interpretation by the Department for Culture, Media and Sports, of the Budd Report on Gambling Review and in particular the subject of Prize Competitions.

The DCMS, against the recommendations not only of Budd but also authoritative bodies such as the Gaming Board for Great Britain and the Lotteries Council, appear to have tackled regulation of the prize competitions by deciding they were not gambling and therefore not liable to be included.

When one considers how lotteries such as ours that are owned and operated by charities are regulated (about which we are not complaining) against the non-regulation of prize competitions, the unfairness becomes very obvious, yet the DCMS appear to be hiding behind a fairly bland stance that any meaningful wording that would serve the purpose of regulating prize competitions is too difficult to create.

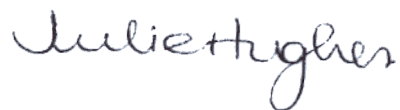
Some of the outstanding differences in treating us in comparison to prize competitions are as follows:

SOCIETY LOTTERIES	PRIZE COMPETITIONS
Our lotteries require registration with an appropriate authority	No regulation required
We have to submit returns for each lottery undertaken	No accountability required
We are limited on stake money, prizes and expenses	No limits apply
At least 20% of the proceeds must go to the society	No minimum amount required
Our participants must have reached the age of 16	No restriction on age applies
We cannot sell in a public place or in the street unless from a kiosk	No restrictions apply
Criminal convictions can apply to even minor lottery offences	Most unlikely that any infringement will be treated as a criminal offence

Cynics might argue that because the media is a big player in the prize competition market, their powerful voices are overshadowing the fact that hundreds of millions of pounds are being swallowed up in their competitions at a time when charitable giving is down by a quarter over the past decade as a proportion of our total national income according to a CAF report.

All we are seeking is a level playing field as charities compete with commercial enterprises in the lottery market and I would be most grateful if you would kindly pursue this matter in the House on behalf of the Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice with whom I know you have a close affinity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Hughes".

Julie Hughes
Hospice Lottery Manager