



Saint **Kentigern** Hospice and Palliative Care Centre

Rt. Hon. Chris Ruane M.P./A.S.
M.P. for the Vale of Clwyd
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

10th January 2003

Dear Chris

Having just returned to work after a relaxing Christmas spent camping (in the caravan), in Lady Margaret's Camp site Chirk Castle, I was somewhat concerned when my lottery manager Mrs Chandler brought to my attention some grave concerns she has about the new draft Gambling Bill. Apparently this is currently before the joint committee and pre-legislative procedures have already commenced.

No doubt you will be familiar with this piece of proposed legislation, but perhaps I could just point out some of the anomalies which we feel could have a detrimental effect on our own lottery income.

It is the Government's proposals for competitions that concern us, specifically competitions for which there is a payment to enter, usually by premium rate telephone call, where a very easy skill stage is passed by the majority of the entrants, and then a lottery (draw) is held to determine the winner(s). We think that there is a danger that these pseudo-lotteries will proliferate to the detriment of society lotteries under the proposed rules for prize competitions. When the Gambling Review dealt with - "Competitions which, for example, are linked to TV and radio programmes" - where entry is on payment via reverse charge telephone call and the final winner decided by a draw, it proposed that the entry cost be limited to that of two first class stamps. The Government has ignored this and proposes not to limit the amount of a premium rate telephone call to enter such competitions, and to permit anybody to promote them anywhere without restriction so long as the schemes involve an element of skill. We feel that this would have an adverse effect on our St Kentigern Hospice Lottery.

Mrs Chandler, myself and our volunteers have to work hard to recruit new members into our Hospice lottery, we consider it very unfair that commercial organisations will be able to operate similar schemes to ours for their own private gain and that they will not have to subscribe to the stringent regulations which are imposed by Government on us, neither I believe, will they be privy to the possibility of criminal prosecution should they not comply with the rules. Sorry, they have no rules to comply with. Unlike those of us who operate within the Society Lotteries regime.

As you know we are very dependant on the proceeds accrued from our lottery, and any reduction will have a serious, negative and adverse effect on our Hospices gross income. When the government decided to give our nurses a well deserved pay rise, then the solution for them was simple - just ask the Chancellor to raise taxes. He gallantly - albeit against manifesto promises agreed, and upped N.I.C. by one percent. My name is not Brown its Hughes and I'm not the Chancellor of the Exchequer, I'm the fundraiser for St Kentigern Hospice who has one assistant and the responsibility for a one million pound per year required income. Unfortunately, unlike Mr Brown I cannot with the stroke of a pen increase our income for the just pay rise that our nurses have received. So you see its excruciatingly

Upper Denbigh Road, St. Asaph, Denbighshire LL17 0RS
Registered Charity Number / Rhif Elusen 519931
Telephone (ffôn): 01745 585221
e-mail: st.kentigern@cybase.co.uk
Trading as St. Kentigern Hospice

Ffordd Uchaf Dinbych, Llanelwy, Sir Ddinbych LL17 0RS
Chairman / Cadeirydd: Lady Langford
Fax (ffacs): 01745 585224
Web Address: www.cybase.co.uk/stkentigern
Ltd Company Number 2216886

galling for all of us in the Hospice when this Labour Government of ours not only increases our expenses, but then proposes new legislation which in our opinion will actually reduce our income.

Chris, sorry to start the year off on a complaining note, but you know how close to my heart the Hospice is. I also know that it is close to your heart. We both have many friends and loved ones who have experienced the love care and respect that our nursing staff provide for our local community, and at no charge to our patients and their loved ones.

Your comments, good advice and help on the above would be much appreciated by everyone in St Kentigerns.

Trusting you and yours have had a Very Happy Christmas and Wishing you All a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Sincerely



Paul J S Hughes
Appeals Manager