



## Scotland

Scottish Charities Working Together

Reply to:  
c/o Scottish SPCA  
Braehead Mains  
603 Queensferry Road  
Edinburgh  
EH4 6EA

22 January 2004

Mr John Barrett MP  
Edinburgh West  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Barrett

### New Gambling Bill

Bighearted Scotland is a consortium of seven Scottish charities which was formed in 1994 with the purpose of undertaking major fundraising initiatives and events. The charities involved are: Alcohol Focus Scotland, Child and Family Trust; Epilepsy Action Scotland; Penumbra; Scottish Society for Autism; Scottish SPCA and Sense Scotland. All proceeds raised are shared equally between the member charities, helping to support people with special needs, children and adults with disabilities including autism, epilepsy, mental illness, visual and sensory impairment and also to promote animal welfare and alcohol awareness.

Bighearted Scotland grew out of a much wider gathering of charities in the early 1990s, with a proposal to develop a national Scottish lottery. With the advent of the UK National Lottery, all but nine of the charities withdrew from the consortium. Bighearted Scotland then became the charity beneficiary of a number of Littlewoods scratch card games. The relationship with Littlewoods culminated in the introduction of a Scottish Lottery "Prize Ball 4" which involved a wider partnership including Post Office Counters. Altogether Bighearted Scotland benefited by income of £750,000 from these lotteries for which we underwent close scrutiny from the Gaming Board.

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[www.bigheartedscotland.org](http://www.bigheartedscotland.org)

Bighearted Scotland Charitable Trust - registered as a charity in Scotland No: SC023039  
A consortium of seven charities:

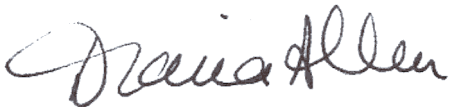
Our purpose in writing to you is to voice our concerns about the new Gambling Bill. The draft Bill is currently before the joint committee chaired by John Greenway and has commenced the pre-legislative scrutiny procedure.

What the Government proposes to do in the new Bill is to ignore the recommendations of the Gambling Review Body, the Gaming Board and the Lotteries Council and permit commercial organisations to operate "pseudo-lotteries" (prize draws). Participants will have to go through a very simple question and answer process where the vast majority get the answer right. The winner is then chosen by a lottery. The organisers will not have to be registered. There will be no public protection; no good cause and no public accountability.

If the Government stands by its statement that "A scheme in which a degree of skill or knowledge is needed in order to secure a prize will not, therefore be capable of being a lottery", we fear a proliferation of minimal skill schemes operated by shops, supermarkets, bookmakers and direct mail promoters could all take custom away from any future fundraising lottery projects with which we may be involved.

We would be most grateful if you could speak up on our behalf as the new Gambling Bill goes through the various committee stages to protect an important avenue of legitimate charity fundraising which is required to be carried out under close Government scrutiny and which stands to be undermined by this new legislation.

Yours sincerely



Diana Allen  
**Chair**