

# LOROS

Hospice Care for Leicestershire & Rutland

→ DCMS

LOROS Lotteries Limited

The Leicestershire  
& Rutland Hospice

Groby Road  
Leicester LE3 9QE

11 February 2004

Ms Patricia Hewitt MP  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

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Dear Ms Hewitt

Re: The Draft Gambling Bill

I am writing to you to ask for your support in voicing major concerns regarding aspects of the new Gambling Bill which is currently undergoing the pre-legislative scrutiny procedure, before a joint committee chaired by John Greenway.

In particular, I want to express severe dissatisfaction at the proposed interpretation by the Department for Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) with regard to prize competitions, and the detrimental impact which I feel this could have on our Hospice funding. The money raised from our Lottery membership is an important part of the voluntary income required each year towards the general funding for the Hospice.

The DCMS appears to have decided that Prize Competitions (for which there is a payment to enter, followed by a very easy 'skill' stage and a form of lottery draw to determine the winner) are not a form of gambling and therefore do not need to be included in the review. This would obviously mean they would not be subject to the scrupulous restraints applied to Society Lotteries.

Indeed, under the proposals before the Scrutiny Committee, these competitions would be allowed to be promoted freely, without restrictions, as long as there is perceived to be a 'degree' (often negligible) of skill. I consider this to be grossly unfair to Lotteries such as ours which stand to see the erosion of substantial funds if, as anticipated, these competitions are allowed to flourish, not only on television and radio but in future on the streets and other public areas.

The unfair comparisons with regard to restrictions between Society Lotteries such as the LOROS Lottery and Prize Competitions are set out briefly below:

<b>Society Lotteries</b>	<b>Prize Competitions</b>
Require registration	No registration required
Have to operate within limits on stake money, prizes and expenses	No limits
Have to submit returns	No returns or accountability
Have to pay at least 20% to the good cause	No donation required
Cannot be sold to or by a person under 16	No restriction on age
Cannot be sold in the street or public place unless from a kiosk	No restrictions apply
Lottery offences – even minor ones – can carry criminal convictions	Very unlikely competition infringements will be treated as criminal offences – other than fraud.

A suggestion has been put forward that the promoters of Society Lotteries may themselves want to look into the possibility of providing prize competitions, but this is to be strongly resisted.

**LOROS HOSPICE LOTTERY - £4,000 IN PRIZES EVERY WEEK...**

Promoter: Liz Singleton

Registered Office:  
The Leicestershire & Rutland Hospice  
Groby Road, Leicester LE3 9QE

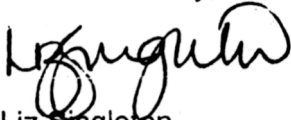
Registered in England: 3179552

Certainly the Leicestershire and Rutland Hospice would not wish to be associated with a 'for profit' operation that could be seen as exploiting the public.

As I am sure you are aware, LOROS provides a very much needed and valuable service for the people of Leicestershire and Rutland. Without regular and sustained funding the level of care provided would be put in jeopardy. This perceived support for these prize competitions can only be seen as one more obstacle to prevent LOROS raising much needed regular income for the Hospice. The injustice of the two systems of administration appears all too obvious.

Any support that you can offer in our search for a fair and level playing field would be very welcome. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours Sincerely,



Liz Singleton  
Lottery Manager

c.c. Alan Austin, Chairman Lotteries Council  
c.c. Julie Hughes, Chair Hospice Lotteries Association