



Mr Mark Harris, Chief Executive of the National Lottery Commission, is appointed as a member of the Board.

James Purnell, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, announced today that Mark Harris has been appointed as a Commissioner of the National Lottery Commission. His appointment has been made under the terms of the National Lottery Act 2006, which allows the Secretary of State to appoint the Chief Executive as a Commission member. The appointment will be for a four year term beginning 1st October 2007.

Biographical notes

Mark Harris was appointed as the National Lottery Commission's first Chief Executive in April 1999. He has a strong background in public sector governance, audit and regulation.

Mark was the Senior Responsible Owner for the competition for the third UK National Lottery licence, working with NM Rothschild as the Commission's lead advisors. The Commission worked hard to create a level playing field and design an attractive competition after extensive consultation with potential bidders and industry players; and made its decision after a thorough and rigorous evaluation.

Under his executive lead, the Commission has worked with the operator to introduce a wider games portfolio, develop innovative new playing channels, and earn respect for the UK National Lottery's work to prevent underage and excessive play.

Mark holds a law degree and is a qualified public sector accountant. He previously worked for District Audit as a public sector auditor, as Associate Controller at the Audit Commission, and on strategic development within the NHS and the Audit Commission. He is a graduate of the Cabinet Office's Top Management Programme and is a Board Member of the Ashridge Business School Alumni Association.

Background

The National Lottery Commission (NLC) is the non-departmental public body responsible for regulating the operation of the National Lottery. It currently comprises seven Commissioners including the Chair and around 40 staff. The NLC has offices in London and is co-located with the current operator in Watford.

The overriding statutory duties of the Commission are to ensure that the National Lottery is run with all due propriety and to protect the interests of every lottery player. It also has a further duty to do its best to maximise the net proceeds of the

Lottery available for distribution to the Good Causes. The NLC is also subject to regulations and directions made by the Secretary of State.

The NLC is solely responsible for awarding the licence to run the UK National Lottery as well as granting licences for specific Lottery games. The Commission monitors the performance of the operator and its compliance with its operator and games licences and the Lottery regulations. It can impose penalties and sanctions for any breaches of the licence and, ultimately, it could revoke the operator licence.

Commissioners may normally claim remuneration of £275 per day in addition to reasonable travel and subsistence expenses – that is not applicable in this instance, since there is no extra remuneration in addition to the Chief Executive's salary.

This appointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for an appointee's political activity (if any has been declared) to be made public. Mark Harris has declared no political activity and he holds no other public appointments.