

Response

Thank you for your request for information in relation to the National Lottery.

The Gambling Commission is responsible for licensing and regulating the National Lottery, ensuring the interests of participants are protected and maximising returns for Good Causes. The Commission has licensed Camelot UK Lotteries Ltd (Camelot) as the operator of the National Lottery.

The questions you have asked relate to the operation of the National Lottery which is managed by Camelot. Camelot publish game rules for draw based games played on-line as well as purchases through retailers so this information is reasonably accessible by other means and therefore exempt on the basis of section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (i.e. this information is publically available). The practical application of these rules is a matter for Camelot.

If you require a legal interpretation of the rules that are published, you may wish to consider seeking independent legal advice.

Please find our response to your questions below.

1. **Direct Debit/UK Bank Account/Brit Citizens:** If a player opts to participate in the National lottery or Euromillions draws by submitting a direct debit mandate via his UK bank and completes all formalities while located within the UK what is Camelots/The legal position (*2 separate questions*) as to his geographic location or UK residency status in event of a big win? For '*big win*' please read £50k or more.

Camelot, as the operator of the National Lottery, determines the rules for playing draw based games and these are available here:

<https://www.national-lottery.co.uk/account-terms#onlinerules>

https://www.national-lottery.co.uk/account-terms#int_playing_by_direct_debit_2

The primary legislation governing the National Lottery is available here:

<http://www.natlotcomm.gov.uk/regulating-the-lottery/statutory-framework/primary-legislation.html>

If you have a specific question regarding Camelot's position in certain circumstances, you may wish to direct this question to them. Camelot can be contacted via the following link:

<https://www.national-lottery.co.uk/contact-us?icid=bsp:na:tx>

2. **How does Camelot and/or any interested party verify claimants ('winners') ID and eligibility in event of a big win?** Please list all criteria or explain why it is not possible.

Camelot seek to verify player's identify when accounts are opened, as detailed here:

https://www.national-lottery.co.uk/account-terms?icid=bsp:na:tx#int_account_registration_1

To verify a winner's claim, Camelot may request original identification documents as well as evidence of residency in the UK or Isle of Man.

- 3. Cash Purchases @ any British outlet by Non Resident or Non Domiciled Brits:** What is the position if Brits in this group buy a ticket and have a win while in UK or that wins up to 2 months after they purchased it (*assuming the maximum length of time tickets can be purchased in advance remains @ 8 weeks*) and are not in the Kingdom on the day of the draw?

The rules for retailer purchases are available here:

https://www.national-lottery.co.uk/games/in-store/rules#int_claiming_a_prize

- 4. Cash Purchases @ any British outlet by Foreigners legally in the Kingdom (tourists/work/EU):** What is the position if anyone in this group buy a ticket and has a win while in UK or that wins up to 2 months after they purchased it (*assuming the maximum length of time tickets can be purchased in advance remains @ 8 weeks*) and are not in the Kingdom on the day of the draw?

Please see question 3.

- 5. Cash Purchases @ any British outlet by Foreigners illegally in the Kingdom (undocumented refugees or asylum seekers):** What is the position if someone in this group buys a ticket and has a win while in UK?

We do not hold this information.

Review of the decision

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your Freedom of Information request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to FOI Team, Gambling Commission, 4th floor, Victoria Square House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B2 4BP.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Gambling Commission. The ICO can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Request

FoI request regarding the National lottery

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