

Response

I write further to your request for information, below. Once again, please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

Our electronic records for scratchcards start in 2004. Please find attached a spreadsheet which contains the information we hold. There are some gaps in the recorded information which is taken from a number of manually created spreadsheets.

With regard to your specific questions:

1. The overall odds of winning a prize on Game 401 – we do not hold this information
2. The release date of Game 541 – 26 September 2011
3. The release date of Game 546 – 27 April 2012
4. The release date of Game 586 – 14 April 2014
5. The release date of Game 614 – 31 March 2014

The records from 2002 – 2004 are paper based records, where a file was created for each game. There are potentially around 200 separate files that are archived for these games and to extract the information would be a manual process which we estimate would exceed the time limit for processing a request.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for public authorities, such as the Commission, is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. We estimate that it would take well in excess of 2.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract these figures (where held). Therefore, this part of your request will not be processed further.

I hope you find this information useful.

Review of the decision

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your 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 Commissioners' Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Request

I would like to make a Freedom of Information request (FOI) concerning National Lottery scratchcards. I have read that information relating to the first period of license operation from 1995 through to 2002 is unavailable, therefore my request will be limited to subsequent to that time.

I am looking for the following for scratchcards released during the period 2002 to and

including 2007;

1. Game Number
2. Game Name
3. Card Cost
4. Top Prize Available
5. Overall Odds of Winning a prize
6. Number of top prizes available
7. Game Start Date
8. Game Closure Date

In addition, there are a few small additional pieces of information requested, thus;

1. The overall odds of winning a prize on Game 401
2. The release date of Game 541
3. The release date of Game 546
4. The release date of Game 586
5. The release date of Game 614

Thank you very much in advance for any information that could be made available.