



Regulating the  
National Lottery

# GAMBLING COMMISSION

Original published date **15/08/2018**

Superseded published date **18/02/2020**

*This document supersedes a previously published version. During the period concerned (relating to data published in the Q2 2017/18 to Q1 2018/19 updates), the Commission's approach to analysing quarterly data changed and therefore inconsistent information was presented on our website without explanation. The Commission changed its approach to ensure the periods reported are more comparable to each other. All documents concerned have now been updated to ensure consistent data is presented.*

*Please scroll down to revised report.*

# Funds raised for good causes

## Income from game sales by quarter and versus last year

Published: 15 August 2018 (Revised 18/02/2020)

Reporting Period: Quarter 1, 2018-19 (April to June)

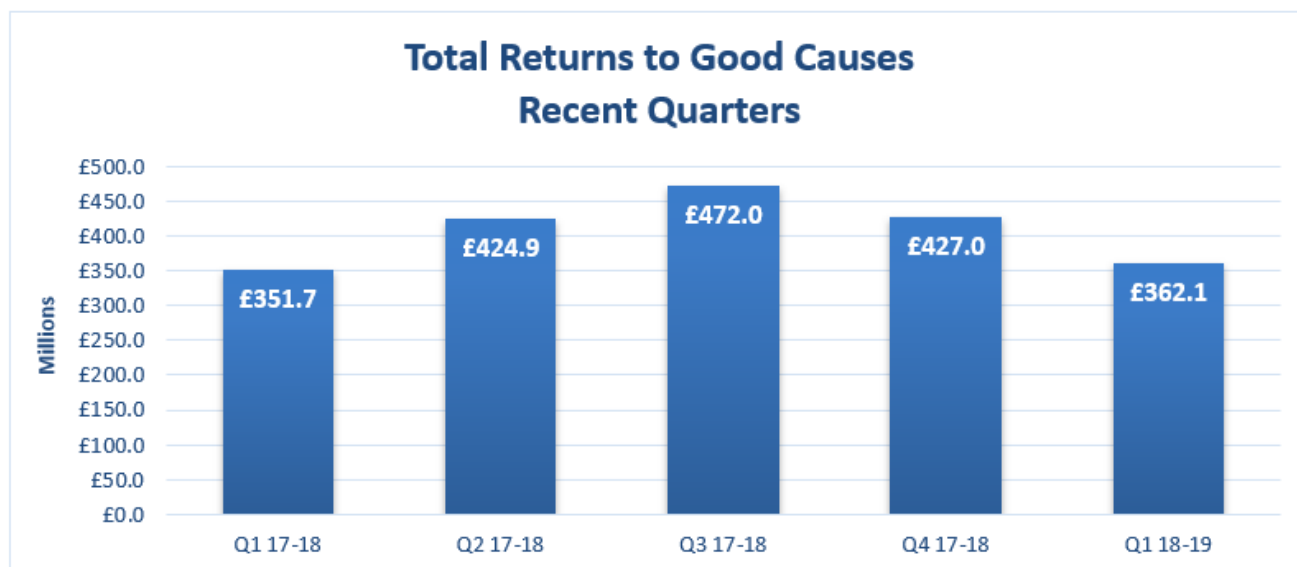
Since its launch in November 1994, the National Lottery has raised over £38 billion for good causes that include sports (including Olympic athletes and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games), arts and heritage, as well as health and education and the environment.

Funds are raised from the sale of National Lottery games and supplemented by unclaimed prizes and interest on balances of funds held. The funds for the original good causes are held in the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF). The Commission ensures that payments from the Lottery operator to the good causes are accurate and on time.

### Total funds raised for good causes between Quarter 1 2017-18 and Quarter 1 2018-19<sup>1</sup>

The chart below shows the most recent quarter and the preceding four quarters for comparative purposes. For reporting purposes the number of weeks within the quarters vary according to the fall of financial year cutoff dates.

The total raised for the NLDF in Quarter 1 (April to June) was £362.1m. This was £64.9m (23.3%) below the January to March quarter but £10.4m (3.0%) above Quarter 1 in 2017-18:



<sup>1</sup> These amounts relate to the total value of proceeds from game sales raised for the NLDF in approximate calendar quarters. They include all other income and adjustments from game sales, including unclaimed prizes.

## Commentary

The total for the first quarter of the current financial year was below that recorded in the final quarter of 2017-18 but above the amount recorded in Quarter 1 last year.

There were lower average contributions from both of the main draw games for the following reasons:

- The Lotto jackpot failed to reach its maximum (capped) level, peaking at £21m in mid-May. This compares with a period which included a post-Christmas maximum jackpot draw following the seasonal super-raffle on 23 December.
- EuroMillions sales and returns were strong during April in response to a guaranteed jackpot which rolled to £121m. However, subsequent to this, the jackpot failed to exceed £70m, whereas Quarter 4 benefited from an extended jackpot roll to £156m in February.

From a more positive perspective, income from wider game sales was boosted by:

- The benefit of a full quarter's contributions from the new Thunderball Tuesday draw and EuroMillions HotPicks games, which were launched at the end of January.
- An improvement in average weekly returns from Scratchcards.

Stronger performance versus Quarter 1 2017-18 was largely driven by a one-off benefit, with the NLDF receiving a payment relating to unclaimed Scratchcard prizes.