



Rialálaí an Chrannchuir Náisiúnta
Regulator of the National Lottery

Annual Report

2024

OUR VISION

**A safe, sustainable,
properly-run National
Lottery that optimises
funds for good causes.**

Contents

1. Report on Operations pursuant to Section 22(3) of the National Lottery Act 2013	2
1.1 Regulator's Statement	3
1.1.1 Highlights from the First 10 Years	5
1.2 Regulator's Vision, Mission, and Values	6
1.3 Organisational Structure	8
1.4 The Functions of the Regulator	9
1.5 Oversight of the Operator	10
1.5.1 Performance of the Operator	10
1.5.2 Sales, Channels, and Funds for Good Causes	11
1.5.3 Player Protection	13
1.5.4 Responsible Advertising and Promotion	16
1.5.5 Complaints Received	18
1.5.6 Themed Reviews	19
1.5.7 Enforcement	21
1.6 Regulatory Requests under the Act and the Licence	23
1.7 National Lottery Fund	25
1.8 Enforcement of Trademarks	27
1.9 Corporate Affairs	28
1.9.1 Strategy	28
1.9.2 Corporate Governance	29
1.9.3 Resources and Staffing	30
1.9.4 Annual Report and Accounts	31
1.9.5 Internal Audit	31
1.9.6 Risk Management	32
1.9.7 Legislative Requirements	32
1.9.8 Sustainability & Energy Usage	32
Appendix A: PLI's (Premier Lotteries Ireland) Performance Standards	34
Appendix B: Regular Reports Received from PLI	35
Appendix C: Requests for Approval or Consent under the Licence	36
2. Regulator of the National Lottery – Financial Statements and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General pursuant to Section 22(2) of the National Lottery Act 2013	38
3. National Lottery Fund – Financial Statements and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General pursuant to Section 44(4) of the National Lottery Act 2013	66



Report on Operations pursuant to Section 22(3) of the National Lottery Act 2013

1.1 | Regulator's Statement



Carol Boate
*Regulator of the
National Lottery*

In accordance with Sections 22 and 44 of the National Lottery Act 2013, I am pleased to present the Annual Report and Accounts for the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery and the National Lottery Fund for the year ended 31 December 2024.

In 2024, €238.3 million was transferred from the National Lottery Fund to the Exchequer to support Good Causes. This represented a slight decrease of 1.1% compared to 2023 (€241.0 million).

2024 was the tenth full year of the regulation of the National Lottery under the National Lottery Act 2013 and an independent Regulator of the National Lottery.

This milestone was an appropriate juncture for wide consultation on the role of the Regulator's Office, its achievements to date, and the potential challenges ahead. Feedback obtained from our stakeholders confirmed that the Office is meeting expectations regarding its role, but that it could communicate its work and priorities more comprehensively. This reflection and feedback was then embodied in a new Strategy Statement for 2025-2027 (available on www.rnl.ie).

My office undertook a number of proactive reviews of the National Lottery's operations during the year; specifically in the areas of marketing, use of expired unclaimed prizes, rules preventing sales to minors, and the reliability of prize checking facilities.

Digital marketing of the National Lottery is tightly regulated through both general and online-specific rules in the Advertising and Promotion Code of Practice, which forms part of the Licence and is updated annually. The Operator's first Tik Tok advertising campaign, the use of push notifications to mobile app users, its "Winners Stories" webpage, and the potential use of Irish Olympic athletes for promotional activity, were all subject to detailed compliance reviews in 2024. No enforcement action was required on foot of these reviews, but some further restrictions or improvements were added.

Every year, checks are performed on the amount of expired unclaimed prizes and the Operator's spending of this on promoting the National Lottery, in accordance with the terms of the Licence. In 2023/24 my office undertook a deep dive review of the Operator's spending on promotional activity in the financial year ended 31 December 2022. No enforcement action was required on foot of the review.

In 2024, my office commissioned its second mystery shop exercise examining the retail sector's compliance with rules governing the sale of National Lottery products to under 18's. This research exercise tested whether the measures taken by the Operator were sufficient to prevent children purchasing National Lottery products.

While progress has been made since our first exercise of this kind in 2018, and the majority of retailers were fully compliant (72%), the percentage not implementing the rules properly (28%) remains unacceptable. The Regulator has required the Operator to take tougher actions to increase awareness of and compliance with the law by its retailers. This work continues to be a priority.

In response to the mystery shop results and to support the work outlined above, the Regulator published advice to parents and guardians on how to talk to their children about National Lottery products and why they are only suitable for over-18s. Gambling of any form while underage increases the risk of developing problem gambling. My office issued a press release and I engaged in national media interviews to further raise awareness among parents, retailers, and the public, of the issue of underage gambling.

One breach of the Licence was determined in 2024 and I withheld €23,000 from payments due to the Operator as a result of this finding and details were published during the year. A third-party software release to the Operator's systems resulted in the Check My Numbers facility on the National Lottery website being used by a number of players at a time when it should not have been available, as draw results were still being verified. As a result of this technical issue, some players received a "Ticket Not a Winner" message when, in fact, the numbers they had entered were winning numbers in the draw that had just taken place and was still being verified.

This issue lasted 6 weeks and may have contributed to up to 394 prizes, totalling €2,299, going unclaimed; one €250 prize and all others ranging from €24 down to €2. The incident was limited to the website, with the National Lottery app version of Check My Numbers, the app's ticket scanner, and the in-store ticket validation machines all working as normal. The unclaimed prizes potentially affected were returned to players as part of additional prizes in National Lottery games. While the impact of this on potential prize winners was limited, this issue had the potential to have had a significant effect on a large prize winner. This risk was not tolerable, so my Office commissioned an independent assessment of the Operator's full suite of prize-checking systems by IT experts from Grant Thornton. No concerns were identified following this assessment.

Sales of National Lottery tickets reached €855.7 million in 2024, an increase of 3.2% on 2023 (€829.4 million), with online sales representing 18.1% of sales (2023: 15.9%). A slightly larger proportion of prizes were won in 2024 than in the previous year, resulting in a corresponding slight reduction in the proportion earned for Good Causes.

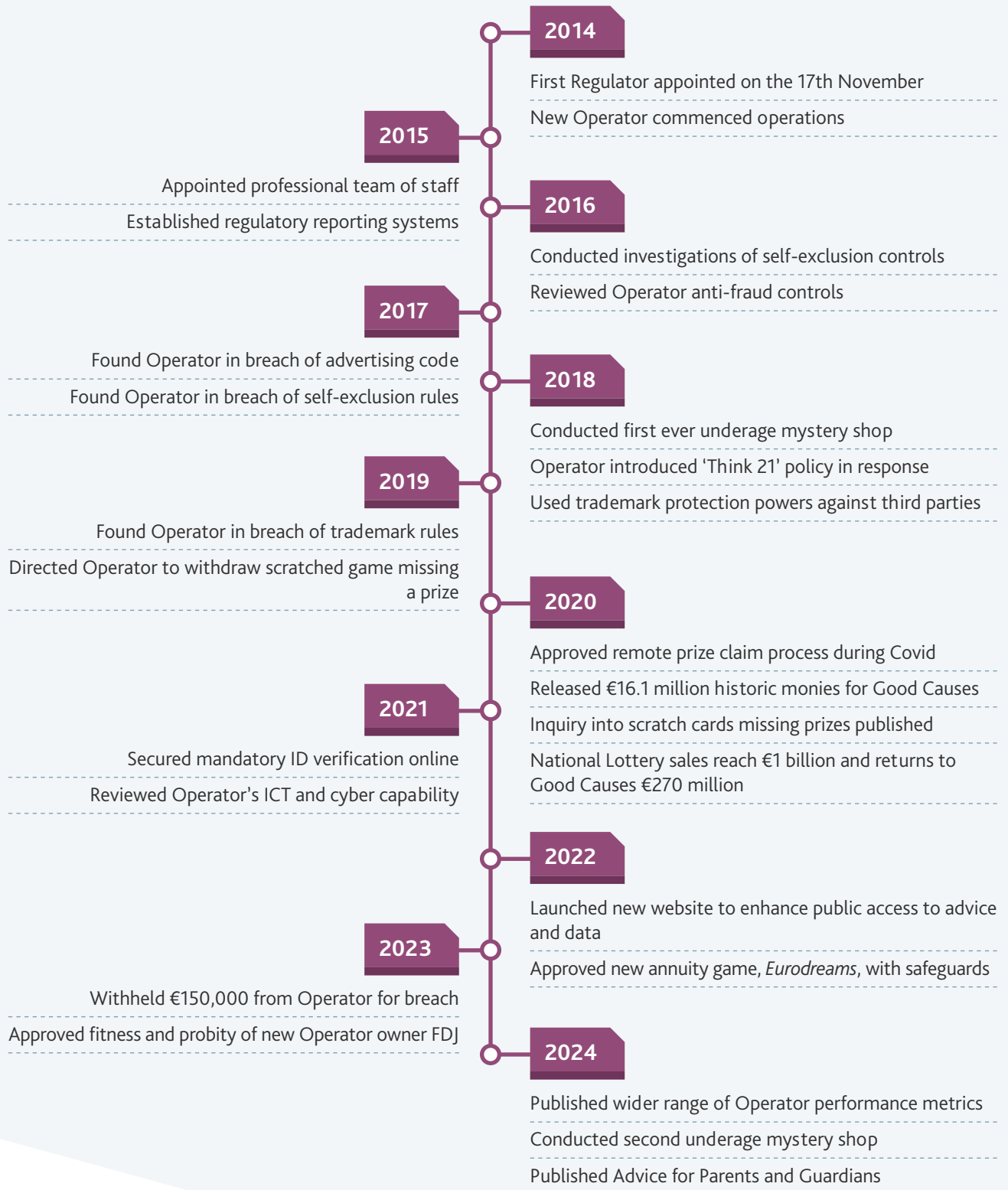
In 2024, the Operator moved to a new office headquarters, launched a new online platform, added new suppliers and implemented new reporting processes to align with its publicly listed owner. My office performed regulatory checks on the probity and suitability of all new lottery contractors and closely monitored and responded to player feedback regarding the new online apps.

The stakeholder feedback obtained during the year welcomed the proactive manner in which we carry out our work and the robust way the Operator is held to account. I was glad to see that the calibre of the people working in this office to support me in my role was also recognised by our stakeholders. I see this every day.



Carol Boate
Regulator of the National Lottery
June 2025

1.1.1 | Highlights from the First 10 Years



1.2 | The Regulator's Vision, Mission, and Values

The Regulator's
VISION



The Regulator's vision reflects the statutory objectives given to her by the Oireachtas. This vision is for:

“a safe, sustainable, properly run National Lottery that optimises funds for Good Causes”

The Regulator's role in achieving this vision is by carrying out her functions in a manner consistent with the statutory objectives reflected in the vision. The Operator of the National Lottery has the responsibility to operate the National Lottery in compliance with the Act and the Licence. The financial model in the Licence incentivises the Operator to maximise funds for Good Causes.

The Regulator's
MISSION



To independently oversee the operation of the National Lottery.

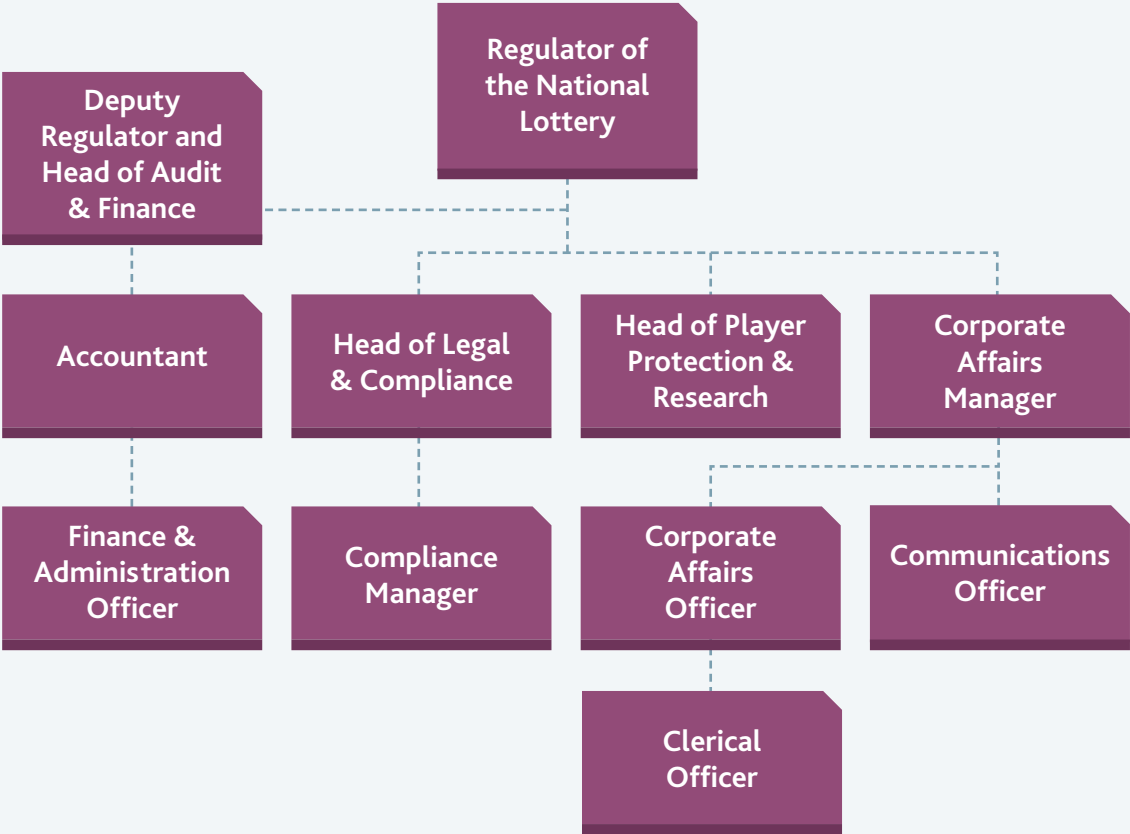
Monitor.

Enforce.

Protect.



1.3 | Organisational Structure



1.4 | The Functions of The Regulator

The Functions of the Regulator which support the vision above, are prescribed in the National Lottery Act 2013, and include the following:

1. To procure the holding of the National Lottery.
2. To oversee the operation of the National Lottery and to monitor and enforce compliance by the Operator with the Act and the Licence.
3. To consider for approval certain matters relating to the National Lottery (including schemes for National Lottery games).
4. To manage and control the National Lottery Fund.
5. To exercise the enforcement rights of any trademark of the National Lottery.

The Regulator is required to carry out these functions in a manner most likely to ensure –

- a) that the National Lottery is run with all due propriety,
- b) that the interests of participants in the National Lottery are protected,
- c) that the long-term sustainability of the National Lottery is safeguarded,

and, subject to above points a) to c), to ensure revenues allocated to the Central Fund for disbursement for the purposes permitted by the Act ("Good Causes") are as great as possible, subject to the terms of the Licence.

The Regulator has no role in relation to applications for, or allocation of, funds for Good Causes. Applications for funding should be directed to the relevant Government Department.

1.5 | Oversight of the Operator

The Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery (ORNL) monitors and enforces compliance by Premier Lotteries Ireland DAC, the Operator, with the National Lottery Act 2013 and with the terms and conditions of the Licence granted to it to operate the National Lottery.

The ORNL fulfils this function through regular and proactive oversight of the Operator. This includes:

- ▶ Reviewing the performance of the Operator against defined performance standards.
- ▶ Oversight of processes and controls applied by the Operator.
- ▶ Monitoring of advertising and promotional activities of the Operator.
- ▶ Acting on complaints received from the public.
- ▶ Proactive themed reviews.
- ▶ Investigations.

1.5.1 | Performance of the Operator

The performance of the Operator is monitored and assessed by reference to projected standards to be achieved in each year. See Appendix A for extracts from the 2024 annual performance standards report from the Operator.

In 2024, the Regulator added a new section to the ORNL website providing some of the key performance metrics* reported by the Operator to the Regulator for the year ended 31 December 2024 and for all previous years. Most of this information was previously published, in annual reports, but it now has more prominence and context and is presented in easy-to-read infographics. Putting these key data metrics to the forefront of the website, in an accessible manner, allows stakeholders to quickly see how the Operator is performing and how performance is measured by the Regulator.

*Key Performance Metrics are available on the Regulators website (www.rnl.ie) in the Data and Publications section.

1.5.2 | Sales, Channels, and Funds for Good Causes

As reported by the Operator, National Lottery sales for 2024 amounted to €855.7 million (2023: €829.4 million). Sales for draw based games were €540.1 million (2023: €531.5 million), while sales for instant games (scratch card games and interactive instant win games) were €315.6 million (2023: €297.9 million).

The size of the retail channel network decreased slightly in 2024. The Operator reported that there were 5,166 active retail agents as of 31 December 2024, down 0.6% from 2023 (5,195). Online sales rose to €155.1 million (2023: €132.2 million) representing 18.1% of total sales in 2024 (2023: 15.9%).

Returns generated for Good Causes amounted to €239.3 million for 2024. The Operator's accounts show that the returns generated for Good Causes increased by 5.0% (2023: €227.9 million). (The annual prize pay-out percentage varies from year to year owing to changes in the mix of products sold in any given year, which in turn determines amounts generated for Good Causes from the total sales).

Key Metrics of the Operator

The following results were reported by the Operator to the Regulator for the year ended 31 December 2024.



* Scratch cards and instant online games

A summary for the years 2018 to 2024, from the Operator's accounts, is as follows:

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Sales	€805.0m	€884.5m	€918.9m	€1,053.7m	€884.1m	€829.4m	€855.7m
Prize Pay-Out %	56.35%	56.25%	57.56%	55.61%	54.84%	57.73%	56.99%
Generated for Good Causes	€228.5m	€251.6m	€253.6m	€304.0m	€259.5m	€227.9m	€239.3m
Good Causes as a % of Sales	28.39%	28.45%	27.60%	28.85%	29.35%	27.48%	27.97%

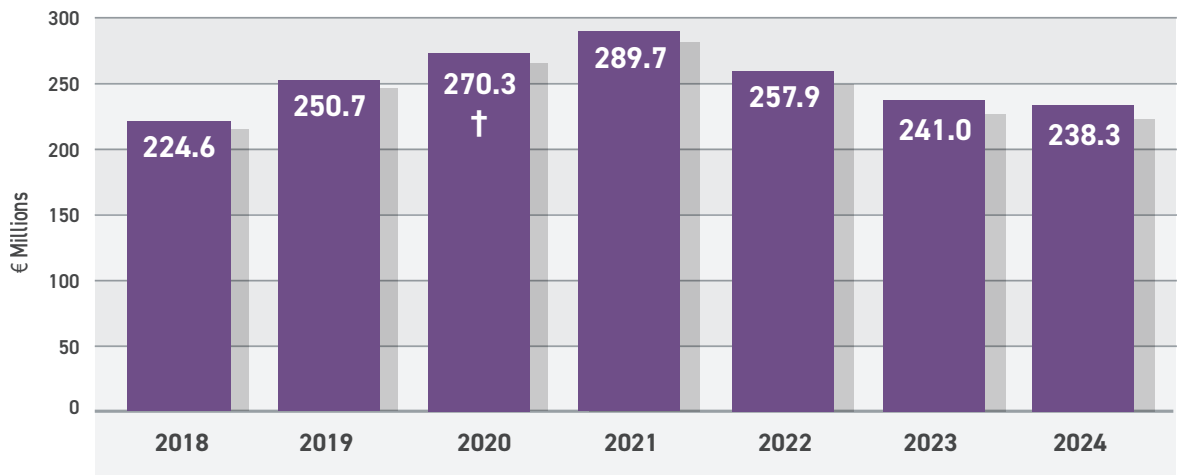
The amounts allocated to prizes and Good Causes in each year of the Licence are available on the Regulator's website (www.rnl.ie).

The total amount **transferred** from the National Lottery Fund by the ORNL to the Exchequer for distribution to Good Causes in 2024 was €238.3 million (2024: €241.0 million), a decrease of 1.1% on 2023.

The returns to Good Causes generated by the Operator in 2024 relate to ticket sales recorded in that calendar year, i.e., 1 January to 31 December 2024. Funds for Good Causes transferred to the Exchequer during 2024 (which are on a cash receipts basis), relate to monies earned from ticket sales in the 53-week period from 10 December 2023 to 14 December 2024.

Amounts transferred from the National Lottery Fund to the Exchequer for distribution to Good Causes (pursuant to Section 44 of the National Lottery Act 2013, for the purposes set out in Section 41) in the years from 2018 to 2024 were as set out in the figure below.

Amounts Transferred from National Lottery Fund to Exchequer for Good Causes in €'millions



† The transfers in 2020 included an amount of €16.1 million in respect of historical expired unclaimed prizes.

The amounts transferred to the Exchequer for Good Causes in each year of the Licence are available on the Regulator's website (www.rnl.ie).

1.5.3 | Player Protection

A statutory objective of the Regulator is that the interests of the participants in the National Lottery are protected. Included in this objective is monitoring how the Operator is protecting:

- ▶ Those who are underage (defined for the purposes of the National Lottery as under 18 years of age).
- ▶ Players with a susceptibility to excessive or problem play.

While many people enjoy and engage safely in National Lottery games, certain groups or individuals can be vulnerable or susceptible to problem play. The ORNL recognises that there are features of games and of the gaming environment (whether online or via retail outlets) that can drive repetitive patterns of play, amplifying player risk, particularly for certain groups of players.

A key goal of the Regulator is that players of National Lottery games should experience informed consumer interactions with the National Lottery that minimise risk to participants. Measures in place to achieve this goal include controls on the content of marketing communications of the National Lottery, controls on the purchase of National Lottery game tickets, and a thorough assessment of the level of risk attached to each new game proposed.

The Regulator drives prevention of problem and underage play through:

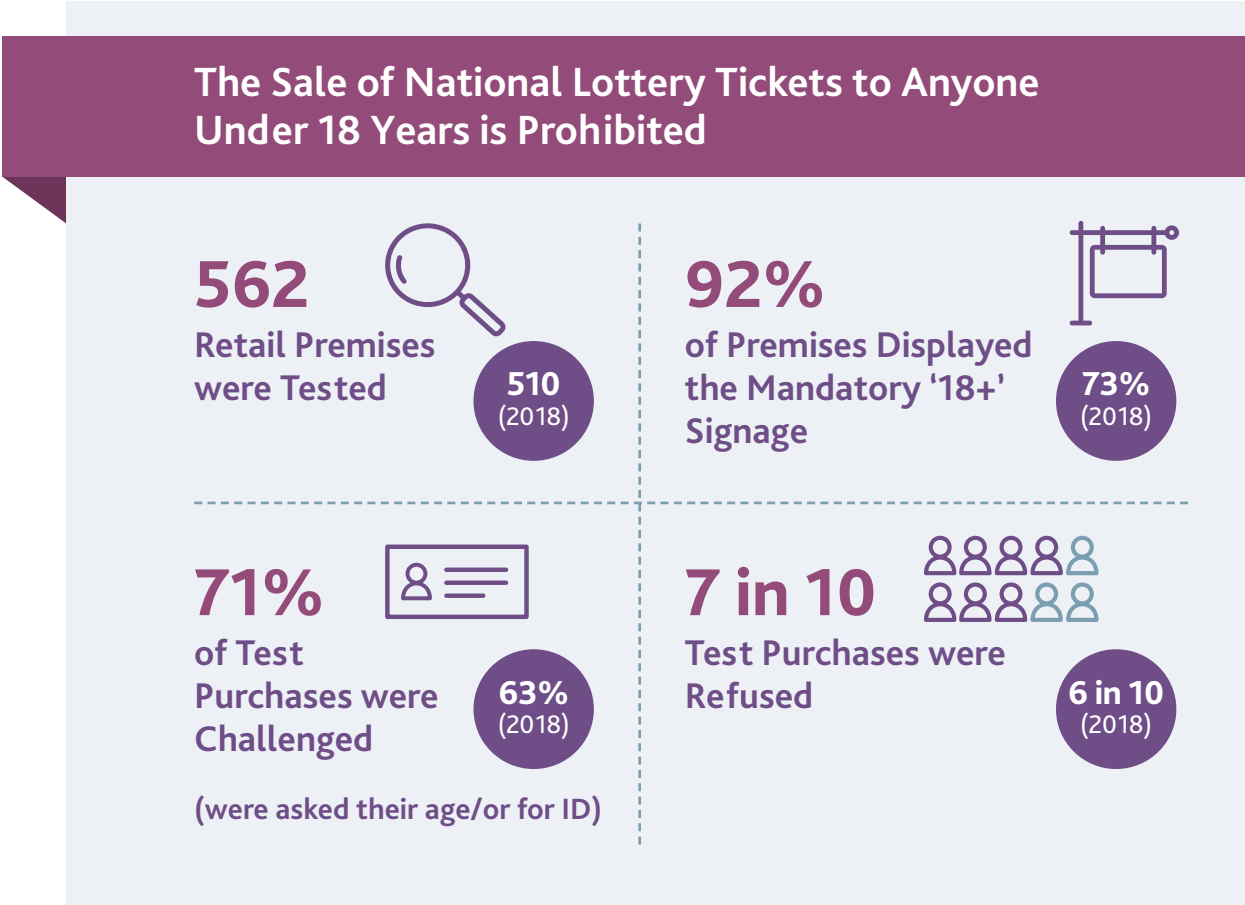
- ▶ Reviewing the Operator's procedures and sales environments.
- ▶ Researching and identifying processes and practices that have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing or minimising risk.
- ▶ Assessing the level of risk attached to new games proposed by the Operator.

Preventing Underage Play in Retail

In 2024, the Regulator commissioned its second major independent research to examine the Irish retail sector's compliance with rules governing the sale of National Lottery products to under 18's as set out below:

- ▶ Not to sell National Lottery tickets to persons under 18 years of age.
- ▶ To display the mandatory 'Over 18' sign in a visible location.
- ▶ To ask anyone who is not clearly 21 years or over for ID.

The Report from Ipsos MRBI was published on the Regulator's website (www.rnl.ie) and the key points are as follows:



The purpose of this research exercise was to test whether the measures taken by the Operator are sufficient to prevent children purchasing National Lottery products. The findings provide the Regulator with an important comparative measure from 2018 to 2024 to assess the impact taken by the Operator to date to improve compliance by retailers in this important area and future actions to be taken. The test purchasers were 15, 16 and 17 year old boys and girls.

While progress has been made, and the majority of retailers were fully compliant, the percentage not implementing the rules properly remains unacceptable. The Regulator has required the Operator to take tougher actions to drive an increase in awareness and compliance with the law by its retailers. This work is ongoing. The Regulator continues to monitor the Operator's activities and initiatives, and the results of its own mystery shop campaigns, to ascertain that the Operator is using its best endeavours to achieve retail compliance in the selling of National Lottery products.

Advice for Parents

In response to the test purchasing exercise results and to support the work outlined above, the Regulator published advice to parents and guardians on how to talk to their children about National Lottery products and why they are only suitable for over-18s. This is available in the Player Protection section of the ORNL's website under "Advice for Parents and Guardians" and encourages adults to avoid involving children in buying or playing National Lottery products with them or gifting National Lottery products to minors for birthdays or other occasions.

Effectiveness of Controls for Online Play

Schedule 9 of the Licence sets out certain controls for online play, including:

- ▶ Registration of an account and one account only per person.
- ▶ Limits on spend per day, week, and month.
- ▶ Self-exclusion facility.
- ▶ Random age checks.
- ▶ Payment of large prizes is contingent on proof of age and identity.
- ▶ Large prizes are paid by cheque.
- ▶ Limit on online account balance.

These controls, together with preventative, responsible gaming measures as envisaged by Clause 10 of the Licence, properly applied, provide support in the prevention of problem and underage gaming.

Schedule 9 requires that the Regulator comments on the effectiveness of controls in relation to play online in her annual report.

The rollout in 2023 of mandatory identity verification of all National Lottery online account holders improved the robustness of self-exclusion measures and further mitigates the risk of underage play online in 2024.

Mandatory identity verification at the point of registration acts to prevent minors from registering with a false age and purchasing National Lottery tickets online. Combined with the mandatory identity verification of all pre-existing accounts, it also acts to better prevent and deter a player from opening a second account to circumvent the spend limits or a self-exclusion period.

Monitoring Online Play

In addition to ensuring that the controls under Schedule 9 are applied to players, the Operator monitors risk indicators that are suggestive of problem play. The Operator interacts with players displaying these risk indicators to raise awareness of available supports, including facilities to set spending limits, self-exclusion and third-party support services. This interaction begins with an email and can be escalated to a phone call and, where needed, the exclusion of a player from the online channel.

The ORNL is provided with quarterly anonymised data on online game purchases. This data allows the ORNL, on an anonymised basis, to:

- ▶ Monitor player spend and frequency of gaming on game types.
- ▶ Monitor the use of the self-exclusion facility.
- ▶ Monitor player spend behaviour over time.

The Operator also provides the Regulator with quarterly player protection reports. These reports provide data and the Operator's analysis of player spending, including where players have repeatedly reached the online spend limits imposed by the Licence, namely €75 per day, €300 per week and €900 per month.

The application of controls for online play is subject to continual review by the Regulator both in respect of compliance with the Licence and the Act and in respect of effectiveness. The Regulator has regard to the controls for online play when considering applications for approval of schemes for lottery games which are played online.

1.5.4 | Responsible Advertising and Promotion

Clause 9 of the Licence provides for an Advertising and Promotion Code of Practice ("the Code") giving the Operator clear guidelines to ensure responsible marketing communication and advertising practices consistent with the laws on advertising in the State. The Code must be reviewed annually by the Operator and any changes must be approved for use by the Regulator, and this was completed in 2024.

The ORNL regularly monitors the Operator's marketing communication channels to ensure that it follows responsible advertising and gaming practices as per the Code and other clauses of the Licence. The information provided must be transparent, accessible, and not misleading. Players should not intentionally or unintentionally be exposed to communications likely to result in underage or irresponsible play.

The Regulator did not find any breach by the Operator in the execution of its advertising and promotion campaigns in 2024, but intervened, as set out below, to ensure that appropriate restrictions are in place on the use of new advertising and promotion opportunities, in particular, those presented by emerging technology.

Push Notifications

National Lottery participants have been able to opt-in to receive push notifications from the National Lottery app since 2021. Participants who had previously opted-in can opt-out of receiving push notifications at any time. The Operator issues two kinds of push notifications: (a) general notifications to app users who have opted-in, and (b) specific notifications to app users with National Lottery online accounts.

Schedule 9 of the Licence sets out the obligations on the Operator where a player chooses self-exclusion from their online account, which include that the player “will receive no marketing messages for the period of their exclusion”. The Regulator previously determined that this “no marketing messages” obligation encompasses push notifications. Thus, the Operator does not send push notifications to players with online accounts who have self-excluded – whether general or specific push notifications - even if the self-excluded player opts-in to receiving push notifications.

In 2023, the Regulator was made aware by the Operator that there was a technical issue where, if a self-excluded player deleted the National Lottery app and later reinstalled it and opted-in to receive general push notifications, they may, in certain circumstances, be able to receive general push notifications (but not the specific notifications to account holders). There were no actual incidences observed of a self-excluded player receiving a push notification during a period of self-exclusion.

All push notifications were suspended while the Operator put in place a number of new controls to try and address the issue. The Operator was unable to resolve the issue entirely and, in 2024, agreed with the Regulator to ensure that general push notifications do not contain marketing messages, in case they are ever received by a self-excluded player.

General push notifications are now limited to information only e.g. post draw results. Push notifications sent specifically to account holders, by definition, cannot be received by account holders who have self-excluded.

Paris Olympics

Standard 31 of the Code requires that *“Advertising and Promotion activities shall not... contain endorsements by recognisable figures who would be regarded as heroes or heroines of children”*. With Ireland sending a record number of athletes to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris in summer 2024, and given the long-standing relationship between the National Lottery and the funding of sports activities in Ireland, the Regulator pre-emptively wrote to the Operator to ask it about its plans, if any, to feature any Olympic athletes in its advertising and promotion activities during the year.

The Operator confirmed that they had no plans to engage any current or recent Olympic or Paralympic athletes to advertise or promote the National Lottery during the course of Paris 2024, but may do so afterwards, subject to compliance with the Code.

Following consideration of whether and when an Olympian would likely be recognisable to and a hero of children, the Regulator advised the Operator, well in advance of Paris 2024, of the approach that this Office would take in this regard and that the Operator was expected to plan its advertising and promotion activities accordingly.

Tik Tok

Online and social media advertising and promotion has been a feature of National Lottery advertising and promotion, including before the current Licence. The proportion of advertising and promotion online has increased relative to traditional broadcast and print advertising in recent years as the latter's share of audience numbers decreases. At the same time, the Regulator has ensured that the Code contains specific restrictions on the use of online and social media advertising that reflect the nature of these platforms. For example, Standard 33 of the Code requires that "Social media Advertising and Promotion to be designed to reach only those who are aged 21+ as the age restrictions on these platforms are tick-box gates only".

In 2024, the Operator ran an advertising campaign on the social media platform Tik Tok for the first time. This was a Good Causes awareness campaign, and not a game-based advertising campaign, to the Good Causes information part of the National Lottery website, rather than the home page, and without a National Lottery Tik Tok account or comments functionality so that there was no interactive commentary element to the advertising campaign. The campaign was also designed to reach only those users who are aged 25+ and contained the usual 18+ signage.

The Regulator's officials reviewed this campaign and, as a result, the Operator delayed and amended the campaign so that the embedded link to the National Lottery website, which forms part of the National Lottery's online sales channel and contains prominent links to the games, was replaced with a link to a separate website showcasing various Good Causes previously in receipt of National Lottery funding only.

1.5.5 | Complaints Received

Members of the public, whether as participants in any National Lottery game or not, can file complaints in relation to the National Lottery with the Operator, and/or with the Regulator.

When the ORNL receives a complaint from a member of the public, it must be considered from a regulatory perspective to see whether there has been any breach by the Operator of the Act or the Licence. The Regulator cannot influence or alter a decision that falls within the Operator's remit *other than to ensure that it complies with the Act and the Licence*. The Regulator received 35 complaints in 2024.

Summary of complaints received by the Regulator in 2024 and Action Taken

Subject Matter of Complaints	Numbers
Online Experience	13
Information Provided	7
Game Design/Experience	8
Expired Scratch Cards	2
Quality of Materials	0
Retailer Complaint	3
Equipment Not Functioning in Retailer	0
Not related to the Lottery	2
Total	35
Action Taken by Regulator	Numbers
The ORNL responded directly	5
The Operator responded after contact from the ORNL	27
Ongoing complaints on 31 December 2024	3

1.5.6 | Themed Reviews

Trademarks

The Licence contains detailed provisions regarding trademark, copyright, and other intellectual property compliance obligations on the Operator to protect the reputation and long-term value of the National Lottery brand and intellectual property. For example, Clause 7.3 requires the Operator to display the National Lottery logo on tickets, documents, and equipment relating to the National Lottery.

The Regulator monitors the use of trademarks on an ongoing basis and also completes a structured review of the Operator's compliance annually. No requirement to enforce the rights of the trademark of the National Lottery arose from this compliance review in 2024.

Expired Unclaimed Prizes

National Lottery winners have 90 days to claim a prize from the date a draw was held or a scratch card game ended. After the 90 days pass, any unclaimed prizes from the draw/game expire and are ringfenced under the Licence for the promotion of the National Lottery and its games and the Operator is obliged to spend these monies within 365 days of them becoming available. This obliges the Operator to continually promote the National Lottery and its games throughout its 20-year Licence and, to an extent, that reflects the State's long-term interest in protecting the goodwill already vested in the National Lottery brand and trademarks, and the long-term value of this asset to the people of Ireland.

Officials at the ORNL review the amount of expired unclaimed prizes, when they are drawn down, and the Operator's plans for spending them on promoting the National Lottery (games). Checks are performed on the amounts, the timings, and that the money is actually being spent on promoting the National Lottery and nothing else. The focus and extent of these checks varies from year to year. In addition, the independent statutory auditors engaged by the Operator annually provide a reasonable assurance report to the Directors of the Operator that the Expired Unclaimed Prizes and the Incremental Marketing costs as per the Expired Unclaimed Prizes account for the year comply in all material respect with the Licence, and a copy of this report is provided to the Regulator.

In 2024, the ORNL conducted a comprehensive review, commenced in 2023, of expired unclaimed prizes and their expenditure in the financial year ended 31 December 2022. No enforcement action was required following this review.

Winners Stories Webpage

The Regulator considers it critically important for the compliant operation of the National Lottery that information included on the National Lottery website is factually correct and does not mislead, including by omission. Thus, officials in the ORNL regularly visit the website and review information presented there.

The National Lottery website, www.lottery.ie, includes a section providing information on recent National Lottery winners. The information comes from media releases issued by the Operator following a winner's visit to National Lottery HQ. Often the winner prefers to remain anonymous and is not identified in the story of their win. In 2024, a targeted review of this section of the website, and the underlying quality controls, was conducted to check that it met the standards of being factually correct, complete, and not misleading.

No enforcement action was required on foot of the review though some media releases were missing from the website. In response to the review, the Operator made improvements to its controls and to the style of presentation of the information, to ensure that this section of the website is kept up to date and well presented for the reader.

Responsible Advertising and Promotion

In 2024, the Regulator reviewed a number of aspects of the Operator's use of new advertising and promotion opportunities. See Section 1.5.4 above for full details.

1.5.7 | Enforcement

There was one issue which gave rise to enforcement action in 2024. Details of this incident and the outcome of the enforcement action were published via a press release (for the Annual Report 2023) in October 2024.

Check My Numbers Facility

The Check My Numbers facility on the National Lottery website and app invited National Lottery participants to enter a six number selection for Lotto, EuroMillions or Daily Million and check it against the "Latest Draw" or against all the draws for that game in the last 7, 30 or 90 days to find out if it was a prize-winning set of numbers. The facility would either advise that such a ticket was "not a winner" or provide details of the prize(s) available for claiming by anyone with such a ticket. This facility could be used to check number selections, whether actual tickets were purchased or not (e.g. favourite numbers usually selected) and is used anonymously.

In September 2022, a third-party software release to the Operator's systems resulted in the Check My Numbers facility on the National Lottery website being used by a number of players at a time when it should not have been available as draw results were still being verified. The Operator had controls in place that alerted it to the failure caused by the third-party software release. It immediately took steps to temporarily address the failure and requested a permanent software fix. However, the temporary measure was ineffective such that the failure continued over a six-week period; the facility worked on the Operator's screens but was not actually effective for players. When it became apparent to the Operator that the measure was ineffective, further steps were taken to remedy the failure, resulting in a permanent solution, and the Regulator was then informed of the issue.

As a result of this technical issue, some players received a "Ticket Not a Winner" message when, in fact, the numbers they had entered were winning numbers in the draw that had just taken place and was still being verified. This issue may have contributed to up to 394 prizes going unclaimed. The total value of the unclaimed prizes that might not have been claimed due to this incident was, at most, €2,299; one €250 prize and all others ranging from €24 down to €2.

The incident was limited to the website, with the National Lottery app version of Check My Numbers, the app's ticket scanner, and the in-store ticket validation machines all working as normal.

Breach of the Licence

Clause 9.8 of the Licence requires that statements published by the Operator, for example, whether a player was a winner or not, must be "*true and capable of independent verification*". The Regulator opened an inquiry into this matter and, having carefully considered the facts in full, determined that the Operator had breached clause 9.8 of the Licence. The Regulator also directed that the €2,299 unclaimed prizes potentially affected be returned to players as prizes in other National Lottery games.

Withholding of Payment

Following this enforcement action the Regulator withheld €23,000 from payments due to the Operator, in July 2024, and this money was sent to the Exchequer to fund Good Causes.

There were considerable mitigating factors in this case, particularly the maximum value of the prizes potentially involved, individually and cumulatively. The Operator self-identified the issue and acted promptly, reported the matter to the Regulator, did not profit from its error, and permanently fixed the issue. However, it was the Operator's failure to adequately test whether the temporary measure above was effective that led to the continuing failure over a six-week period.

Independent Assessment of All Prize-checking Facilities

The potential impact that this technical issue could have had on a larger prize winner was not underestimated. The Regulator thus, in 2024, commissioned an independent assessment of the Operator's full suite of prize-checking systems by IT experts from Grant Thornton. This assessment covered the National Lottery app's Check My Numbers facility, the in-app ticket scanner facility, and the in-store ticket validation machines. No concerns were identified following this assessment.

Discontinuation

The Check My Numbers facility was subsequently discontinued by the Operator when it launched a new website and smart phone apps at the end of the year. Use of this facility had dropped dramatically following the introduction of the in-app ticket scanner software in 2021. The newer technology allows players to scan the barcode on a National Lottery ticket and find out if it is a prize-winning ticket (and thus is not subject to user error). Players who use the National Lottery website to check tickets can still find the results for all draws over the past 90 days, after which unclaimed prizes expire, to check against their ticket.

1.6 | Regulatory Requests under the Act and the Licence

Some aspects of the Operator's activities require the Regulator's written approval of compliance with the Act and the Licence in advance, including:

- ▶ New or amended schemes for National Lottery games.
- ▶ The appointment of new service providers.
- ▶ Schemes for the testing of equipment used in National Lottery draws, as well as the approval of qualified, independent persons to conduct the tests.
- ▶ Internal audit reporting line.
- ▶ Approvable descriptions of processes and systems.
- ▶ Changes to codes of practice, including:
 - ▶ Participants' Code of Practice.
 - ▶ Sales Code of Practice.
 - ▶ Advertising and Promotion Code of Practice.
 - ▶ Code of Practice on Vetting Procedures.
- ▶ Change of control of the Operator

Assessment Process

Clause 23 of the Licence provides for and sets out the procedure for any requests made by the Operator that require the Regulator's review and approval. Every request for approval is closely examined to assess whether it complies with a range of provisions in the Act and the Licence.

Where the Regulator is not satisfied that a request is compliant, the Operator may be asked to provide additional information. If additional information is submitted which addresses the concerns of the Regulator, a request would be ultimately approved. Where the Operator is unable to address the concerns within the required timeframe, a request would either be rejected by the Regulator or withdrawn by the Operator.

Requests

In total, 36 requests were received in 2024, 29 of which related to games.

Status	All Requests	Game Related
Received	36	29
Approved	30	25
Refused	0	0
Withdrawn by Operator	2	0
Under consideration on 31 December 2024	4	4

See Appendix C for details of all requests received during the year.

Details of requests received in previous years are available on the Regulator's website (www.rnl.ie).

1.7 | National Lottery Fund

The National Lottery Fund (the “Fund”) was established under the National Lottery Act 1986 as a single account held with the Central Bank of Ireland. The Fund is managed and controlled by the Regulator in accordance with the Act and the Licence.

Calculation of Good Causes

The amount allocated to Good Causes is calculated, in accordance with the Act and the Licence, as 65% of the difference between sales and prizes. Under the Act, prizes must, on average across the portfolio of National Lottery games, be at least 50% annually.

$$\text{Good Causes} = (\text{Sales} - \text{Prizes}) \times 65\%$$

Management and Control

Each week the Regulator reviews the Operator’s “weekly settlement report” of sales of National Lottery tickets regarding each scratch card, draw based game, and online instant win game. Checks are performed regarding the amounts allocated to prizes, Good Causes, retailers, and the Operator. The ORNL also cross-references this financial information with real-time data from the Operator’s gaming system. These weekly checks form part of a system of control to ensure that the revenues raised from the sale of National Lottery tickets, the amount going into prizes, the amount going to Good Causes and the percentage going to retailers, are all accounted for correctly.

The Regulator receives monies from the Operator from the sales of National Lottery tickets each week, less prizes paid out by retailers in the week and retailers’ commissions and makes the appropriate payment to the Operator’s Prize Fund Account, to the Operator’s own operating account and for the Regulator’s levy. Amounts for Good Causes from the sales of National Lottery tickets are retained in the Fund each week by the Regulator and transferred to the Exchequer every two months.

During 2024, €238.3 million was transferred to the Exchequer for Good Causes - compared with €241.0 million in 2023.

A reconciliation to account for the actual prizes won, compared to the amounts allocated to prizes associated with the sales in the financial year, takes place after the end of the financial year. An adjustment for Good Causes' share (65%) of the amount to be added to or withdrawn from the Prize Fund Account is made in March/April and reflected in the next transfer to the Exchequer. (A similar adjustment for the Operator's 35% share of the amount to be added to or withdrawn from the Prize Fund Account is also made). On 31 December 2024, there was an amount of €1.1 million due from the Prize Fund Account to the National Lottery Fund representing Good Causes' 65% share of the adjustment for the year ended 31 December 2024. This amount was paid to the Fund on 31 March 2025.

During 2024,

€238.3 million

was transferred to the Exchequer for Good Causes -
compared with **€241.0 million** in 2023



Annual Accounts of the National Lottery Fund

The annual accounts of the Fund were prepared by the Regulator and submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) for audit in accordance with Section 44 of the Act. These accounts have been audited and are set out in Section 3 of this document. As highlighted in Note 5 of the accounts, Good Causes benefitted in 2024 by €23,000 following the withholding of monies from the Operator in July (see section 1.5.7).

1.8 | Enforcement of Trademarks

Section 46 of the Act provides that the goodwill attaching to the names “Irish National Lottery” and “National Lottery” and their equivalents in the Irish language and to the name of any lottery game held under the Licence vests in the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform.

Clause 7 of the licence outlines detailed provisions regarding trademark and copyright compliance obligations and Schedule 4 of the Licence contains copies of executed IP agreements which impose obligations on the Operator. Pursuant to section 9(5) of the Act the Regulator may enforce any trademarks relating to the National Lottery.

The Operator must notify the Regulator of issues arising in line with its obligations in this regard and sent a number of notifications during 2024.

In 2024, no issue required the Regulator to enforce the trademark rights of the National Lottery.

1.9 | Corporate Affairs

1.9.1 | Strategy

2024 was the final year in a three-year strategy period. The outputs and outcomes of the five strategies specifically targeted at the anticipated commercial, social, and regulatory environment in the period 2022 to 2024 were:

A. Obtain independent expert assurance regarding aspects of the Operator's systems and controls related to the security of player and winner identity data.

This project was postponed to 2025 and replaced with the commissioning of independent expert assurance regarding aspects of the Operator's prize-checking facilities instead, in light of the Check My Numbers incident. Independent IT experts from Grant Thornton were commissioned to confirm that the Check My Numbers fix put in place was operating as intended and to examine the Operator's other prize checking facilities in both retail and the online channel. No concerns were identified.

B. Codify the responsible gaming practices in place to prevent problem play and identify areas for improvement.

This strategy was implemented in 2023 and reported on in the 2023 annual report.

C. Conduct an underage mystery shop exercise to assess progress made in the prevention of sales to minors, compared to the baseline established in 2018; take any action required.

This research was undertaken in 2024 by Ipsos B&A who found that that 72% of 15 to 17 year-olds were denied a sale when attempting to buy a €1 scratchcard. This finding was 10 percentage points higher than the baseline 2018 figure of 62%. Mandatory '18+' signage was also observed in significantly more shops this time, up from 73% in 2018 to 92% in 2024.

While this progress is encouraging, the results clearly show there is still significant room for improvement in terms of age challenge and sale refusal to under-18s.

The Regulator published the report, disseminated the results through the media, and called on *all* National Lottery retailers to adopt a zero-tolerance attitude towards the sale of age-restricted products to children. The Regulator required the Operator to attend before her in 2025 to set out additional measures they plan to take to increase awareness and compliance amongst their retailers. This work is ongoing.

D. Provide more accessible information to the public on how the National Lottery is regulated and returns for Good Causes are calculated and transferred to the Exchequer.

This strategy was implemented in 2023, through the launch of a new website, and reported on in the 2023 annual report.

E. Introduce new hybrid working in a manner that supports effective performance and meets new targets for remote working and climate change.

In 2024 the ORNL moved into a new office premises with a lower carbon footprint, close to public transport, and the appropriate space needed for hybrid working. The ORNL's remote working policy was reviewed and updated to take account of the office's experience to date as well as new WRC Guidance.

Strategy 2025 - 2027

During the year, the ORNL developed its Strategy for 2025 to 2027 - following deep reflection on the role of the Regulator, achievements to date, and the potential challenges ahead. The Regulator engaged the services of external consultants to assist in this task, which included conducting interviews and workshops with a wide range of stakeholders of the ORNL. The stakeholder feedback confirmed that the Office is meeting expectations regarding its role but could communicate its work and priorities more often, more clearly, and more widely. This reflection and feedback is embodied in the Strategy Statement 2025-2027 that is published on the Regulator's website (www.rnl.ie).

1.9.2 | Corporate Governance

Corporate Governance Code of Practice

The governance practice of the ORNL is based on the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies ("the Code") which came into effect on 1 September 2016. The provisions of the Code have been adopted as appropriate by the ORNL in the context of the requirements of the National Lottery Act 2013 which provides for an individual office holder without a board.

A Corporate Governance Assurance Agreement with the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform was in place from May 2022 to May 2025 and formally documents compliance by the ORNL with the Code, including derogations and adaptations appropriate to the structure of the ORNL.

Ethics in Public Office

The ORNL is included in Statutory Instrument No.36 of 2015 for the purposes of the Ethics in Public Office Acts, 1995 and 2001. The Regulator and relevant staff have fulfilled their obligations under this legislation.

Public Sector Human Rights and Equality Duty

Under its Strategy Statement 2022-2024 the Regulator committed to fulfil her obligations in relation to human rights and equality – the “Public Sector Duty”. The Strategy Statement set out several actions to be undertaken over its three-year period, all of which were completed in 2023. The Statement of Strategy and Customer Charter and Action Plan can be found on the Regulator’s website www.rnl.ie.

Protected Disclosures

In accordance with Section 214 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 the ORNL has established and maintains procedures to make protected disclosures in relation to the ORNL and its work and for dealing with such disclosures. The Regulator of the National Lottery has been a Prescribed Person under the Act since 24 September 2020. No protected disclosures were received by the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery in the reporting period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

1.9.3 | Resources and Staffing

Funding

The operations of the Regulator are funded by a levy on the Operator in accordance with Section 24 of the Act. The levy for 2015, the first full year of operations, was set in the Licence at €1,500,000. Thereafter, it is indexed annually in line with the Consumer Price Index.

The agreed amount of Regulator Levy after indexation for 2024 was €1,779,800.

Staff

The ORNL has Ministerial sanction for 11 employees, including the Regulator. At the end of 2024 there were 10 permanent employees. A recruitment campaign commenced in November 2024 to fill the related vacancy, which was filled in January 2025.



1.9.4 | Annual Report and Accounts

The annual accounts of the Regulator for 2024 were prepared and submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General for audit. These accounts have been audited and are set out in Section 2 of this document. The Regulator oversaw the annual financial statements process and accounting policies, risk management, internal control, and value for money issues.

1.9.5 | Internal Audit

The Regulator agreed a programme of internal audits commenced in 2024 by the ORNL's outsourced internal auditors, with reports being submitted to the Regulator in early 2025. The internal auditors were newly appointed in 2024, following a tender process, and following the successful conclusion of the previous internal auditors' contract.

Internal audits addressed both the National Lottery Fund and the Office of the Regulator and included assessment of financial and other internal controls and procedures particularly in the areas of key controls for the management of the National Lottery Fund, and for the Office of the Regulator in the areas of financial controls (with particular focus on the financial controls governance framework, bank reconciliation controls, and levy income controls), information and communication technology controls (with particular focus on cyber security controls), and operational controls (with particular focus on the ORNL complaints process and controls, and the effectiveness of the ORNL reviews of the operator).

There were no significant findings in respect of these audits.

1.9.6 | Risk Management

The ORNL is exposed to a variety of strategic, operational and financial risks in undertaking its role and functions. These risks may arise from internal or external sources and may prevent or affect the ability of the ORNL to achieve its objectives. In line with best practice, the ORNL has a risk management policy and risk appetite statement for identifying, evaluating, and managing the risks it faces. An executive Risk Committee is in place; its role is to advise the Regulator on risk matters and ensure that there are adequate systems in place. The Risk Committee monitors and updates the Corporate Risk Register on an ongoing basis. The Committee reviews the entire Risk Register on an annual basis. In addition, there are two further reviews per year of high-ranking risks, new risks and changing risks on the Risk Register. This review process continued in 2024.

1.9.7 | Legislative Requirements

Official Languages

The Regulator is compliant with the Official Languages legislation.

Freedom of Information

The ORNL has policies and procedures in place that are up to date with the current legislation governing Freedom of Information requests. In compliance with Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, the ORNL prepared and published a publication scheme having regard to the principles of openness, transparency, and accountability.

The ORNL received three Freedom of Information requests during 2024. No decisions were appealed to the Office of the Information Commissioner. Details of non-personal requests are published in the Freedom of Information Disclosure Log, which is available on the Regulator's website.

1.9.8 | Sustainability & Energy Usage

Implementation of the Climate Action Mandate

The Regulator reports on energy performance to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland under SI No 542/2009 – European Communities (Energy End Use Efficiency and Energy Services) Regulations 2009.

The Regulator is compliant with Circular 01/2020 Procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel.

A Climate Action Roadmap was completed and published in April 2024 and a statement summarising the ORNL's compliance with the 2024 Climate Action Mandate has been submitted to the SEAI.

Actions Taken in 2024:

- ▶ Developed a Climate Action Roadmap.
- ▶ Appointed a Green Team - Corporate Affairs Manager, Corporate Affairs Officer and Clerical Officer.
- ▶ Appointed a Climate Action Champion - Corporate Affairs Manager.
- ▶ Senior management attended a climate action leadership training course.
- ▶ Green public procurement fully incorporated into our procurement policy.
- ▶ Zero use of single use plastics reinforced with reusable lidded coffee cups.

Green House Gases

In 2024 the ORNL produced 10,997 KgCO₂. This was 72.5% below the baseline of 40,010 kgCO₂.

To achieve the 2030 target of 9,439kg CO₂, total CO₂ must reduce by another 14.2% from 2024 level within six years.

Energy Efficiency

By 2024, energy performance had improved by 79.4% since the baseline.

If energy performance is maintained at this level for another 6 years, the efficiency target will be achieved.

Energy Usage

The main energy usage relates to heating/lighting and providing water in the office. It should be noted that this energy usage reflects the ORNL rented temporary space of 14.9 SqM in Qtr. 1 2024.

- ▶ Electricity Usage: 22.54 MWh.
- ▶ Fossil Fuel Usage: 27.23 MWh.
- ▶ Total Usage 49.78 MWh.

Appendix A:

PLI's Performance Standards

Year to 31 Dec 2024	Standard	Achieved Performance	Forecast for 2025
Computer Systems			
Terminal availability to sell tickets*	99.00%	99.91%	99.60%
Gaming system availability	99.00%	99.99%	99.60%
Website availability	99.00%	99.99%	99.60%
* 7am to 10pm, excluding draw break, 7 days a week, excluding Christmas Day and prearranged outages			

Prize Payment			
Claims greater than €1,000 paid by cheque following a visit to National Lottery HQ	95.00% within 3 Hrs	100.00%	98.00%
	5.00% within 20 working days	0.00%	2.00%
Claims greater than €1,000 paid by cheque following a postal claim	95.00% within 5 Days	99.95%	98.00%
	5.00% within 20 working days	0.05%	2.00%

Player Services - Voice Contact			
Service availability*	99.00%	100.00%	99.00%
Calls answered within 30 seconds	70.00%	81.11%	90.00%
* 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week, excluding Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Day			

Player Services - Written Contact			
Service Availability*	99.00%	100%	100.00%
Letters answered within 5 working days	80.00%	87.50%	80.00%
Emails answered within 2 working days	80.00%	94.00%	95.00%
Resolution of enquiries at first attempt	80.00%	59.60%	95.00%
Responses to complaints within 2 working days	85.00%	100.00%	85.00%
Responses to complaints within 5 working days	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Complaints to be closed within 10 working days	95.00%	97.00%	95.00%
* 9:15am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday, excluding Christmas Eve and public holidays			

Appendix B:

Regular Reports Received from PLI

Report Number	Report	Frequency
1	Good Causes Annual Report and External Auditors Report thereon	Annually
2	Audited Accounts of PLI	Annually
3	Annual Prize Fund Reconciliation Statement	Annually
4	External Auditors Report on PLI's Internal Controls	Annually
5	External Auditors Report on PLI's Connected Parties	Annually
6	Annual Performance Standards Report	Annually
7	Internal Audit Annual Plan	Annually
8	Base Marketing Annual Budget	Annually
9	Annual Activity Report	Annually
10	Incremental Marketing Report	Annually
11	Audit Risk and Security Committee Report on the Effectiveness of PLI's System of Internal Controls	Annually
12	PLI's Engagement Letter with External Auditor	Annually
13	Significant Risks Summary (previously Risk Registers)	Quarterly
14	Annual Confirmation of Bank Accounts	Annually
15	Scratch Card Game End Reports	At Game End
16	Monthly Management Accounts	Monthly
17	Secure Areas Report	Monthly
18	IT Incident Monthly Log Report	Monthly
19	Speed of Prize Payments	Monthly
20	Descriptions Updates	Monthly
21	Directors and Senior Manager Changes	Monthly
22	Complaints Report	Quarterly
23	Unclaimed Prizes Report	Periodically
24	Good Causes Report	Quarterly
25	Internal Audit Report	Quarterly
26	Minutes of Audit Risk and Security Committee Meetings	Quarterly
27	Player Protection Reports	Quarterly
28	Complaints Update	Weekly
29	Trading and IT Update	Weekly
30	Weekly Settlements	Weekly

Appendix C:

Requests from PLI for Approval or Consent under the Licence

Request Number	Date	Section of Approval Required	Game/Service Info.	Related to a Game	Amended/Further Info. sought	Status at 31 December 2024				
						Ongoing	Request Withdrawn	Ultimately Approved	Ultimately Refused	Decision Date
1	17/01/2024	Section 45	GemQuest IWG	Yes	No			Approved		06/02/2024
2	08/02/2024	Section 45	Updates to 2 IWG Rules	Yes	No			Approved		12/02/2024
3	27/02/2024	Section 45	Mega 777 Multiplier IWG	Yes	Yes			Approved		16/04/2024
4	04/03/2024	Section 45	Christmas Millionaire Raffle 2024	Yes	No			Approved		19/03/2024
5	04/03/2024	Section 45	Scratch "n" Win	Yes	Yes			Approved		16/04/2024
6	15/03/2024	Section 45	Book of Treasure IWG	Yes	Yes			Approved		22/04/2024
7	22/03/2024	Section 45	All Cash 600	Yes	No			Approved		22/04/2024
8	15/04/2024	Section 45	Corporate Matter	No	Yes			Approved		09/05/2024
9	17/04/2024	Section 45	Amendments Tellybingo game rules, advanced play	Yes	No			Approved		19/04/2024
10	03/05/2024	Clause 9.8	Commercially Sensitive	No			Withdrawn			24/05/2024
11	10/05/2024	Section 45	2025 - Scratch Card #616	Yes	Yes			Approved		20/06/2024
12	24/05/2024	Clause 9.8	2024 - Good Causes Awards Request	No	No			Approved		31/05/2024
13	27/05/2024	Clause 18.3	BZP	No	Yes			Approved		24/07/2024
14	28/05/2024	Section 45	Jungle Cashword IWG	Yes	Yes			Approved		03/07/2024
15	07/06/2024	Section 45	Lucky Forest IWG	Yes	No			Approved		24/06/2024
16	14/06/2024	Section 45	Sizzling Hot 7s IWG	Yes	No			Approved		24/06/2024
17	14/06/2024	Clause 9.8	Commercially Sensitive	No	Yes		Withdrawn			12/07/2024
18	17/06/2024	Section 45	Super Riches IWG	Yes	Yes			Approved		15/08/2024

Note: Game Related

Request Number	Date	Section of Approval Required	Game/Service Info.	Related to a Game	Amended/Further Info. sought	Status at 31 December 2024				
						Ongoing	Request Withdrawn	Ultimately Approved	Ultimately Refused	Decision Date
19	21/06/2024	Section 45	Cashword Mystery Multiplier Scratch Card	Yes	No			Approved		08/07/2024
20	28/06/2024	Section 45	Update to Rules of 4 IWGS	Yes				Approved		08/07/2024
21	12/07/2024	Section 45	Update to Rules of 4 IWGS	Yes	No			Approved		24/07/2024
22	19/07/2024	Clause 18.3	Scientific Holdings Limited	Yes	Yes			Approved		06/08/2024
23	21/08/2024	Section 45	Amendments Lotto 6/47 Draw Control Sheets	Yes	Yes			Approved		09/10/2024
24	23/08/2024	Section 45	Cashword IWG	Yes	No			Approved		10/09/2024
25	10/09/2024	Section 45	Amendments to Reverse of Scratch Cards	Yes	Yes			Approved		01/11/2024
26	12/09/2024	Section 45	Cashword Bonus IWG	Yes	Yes			Approved		11/11/2024
27	20/09/2024	Section 45	All Cash Millionaire	Yes	Yes			Approved		01/11/2024
28	03/10/2024	Section 45	Diamond Bingo IWG	Yes	Yes			Approved		05/12/2024
29	17/10/2024	Section 45	Lucky Stars	Yes	Yes			Approved		22/11/2024
30	21/10/2024	Clause 18.3	Open Answers	No	Yes			Approved		22/11/2024
31	01/11/2024	Section 45	150,000 Bingo IWG	Yes	Yes			Approved		29/11/2024
32	19/11/2024	Section 45	€500,000 Money Multiplier#622	Yes	Yes	Yes				
33	25/11/2024	Section 42	Retail Sales Agent Authorisation	No	No			Approved		19/12/2024
34	25/11/2024	Section 45	Commercially Sensitive	Yes	Yes	Yes				
35	13/12/2024	Section 45	Champions (Game 621)	Yes		Yes				
36	13/12/2024	Section 45	Cash Bonanza IWG	Yes		Yes				

Note: Game Related



Regulator of the National Lottery Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2024

General Information	39
Governance Statement and Statement of Responsibilities	40
Statement on Internal Control	45
Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General	48
Financial Statements	50

General Information

Regulator of the National Lottery	Carol Boate
Address	5 George's Dock IFSC Dublin 1 D01 X9N7
Bankers	AIB plc. 7/12 Dame Street Dublin 2 D02 KX20 Bank of Ireland 6 O'Connell Street Lower Dublin 1 D01 X324
Solicitors	Mason Hayes & Curran South Bank House Barrow Street Dublin 4 D04 TR29 Fieldfisher 45 Mespil Road Dublin 4 D04 W2F1
Auditors	Comptroller and Auditor General 3A Mayor Street Upper Dublin 1 D01 PF72

Governance Statement and Statement of Responsibilities

Governance

The Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery was established under the National Lottery Act, 2013 ("the Act"). The functions of the Regulator are set out in Section 9 of the Act. The Regulator shall, subject to the Act, be independent in the performance of her functions. The Regulator is responsible for ensuring good governance and performs this task by setting strategic objectives and targets and taking strategic decisions on all key business issues. The Regulator is accountable to the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform.

The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery are the responsibility of the Regulator and the senior management team. The senior management team must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Regulator. The Regulator must ensure that the senior management team have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to the entity, and of any significant risks likely to arise.

Regulator Responsibilities

The work and responsibilities of the Regulator are set out in the Act. Section 22 of the Act requires the Regulator to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it for audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

In preparing these financial statements, the Regulator of the National Lottery is required to:

- ▶ select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- ▶ make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ▶ prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Office of Regulator of the National Lottery will continue in operation; and
- ▶ state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Regulator is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 22 of the Act. The Regulator is responsible for submitting such financial statements to the Comptroller and Auditor General for audit and for the presentation of these financial statements and the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Minister, together with a report by the Regulator in relation to the performance of her functions.

The maintenance of the corporate and financial information on the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery's website is the responsibility of the Regulator.

The Regulator is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget.

Governance Statement and Statement of Responsibilities

The Regulator is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Regulator considers that the financial statements of the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery at 31 December 2024.

The Regulator has established two committees, as follows:

- 1. Finance Committee:** comprises the Deputy Regulator/Head of Audit and Finance, the Accountant and the Corporate Affairs Manager with an external consultant in attendance and the Regulator with right of attendance. The role of the Finance Committee is to advise senior management on matters relating to the Office's finances, accounting, third-party financial returns and dealings with the Office's internal and external auditors. There were six meetings of the Finance Committee in 2024.
- 2. Risk Committee:** comprises the senior management team (six members). The role of the Risk Committee is to support the Regulator in relation to her responsibilities for issues of risk and control. There were three meetings of the Risk Committee in 2024.

Disclosures Required by the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)

The Regulator is responsible for ensuring that the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies ("the Code"), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the Code.

Aggregate Employee Benefits

	2024	2023
	€	€
Staff short-term benefits	771,080	753,656
Termination benefits	-	-
Employer pension contributions	153,383	155,480
Employer's contribution to social welfare	82,423	79,357
	<u>1,006,886</u>	<u>988,493</u>

The total number of staff employed (WTE) at year end was 9 (2023: 9). This reflects the situation that there was one vacancy in staffing at the year-end which was being addressed.

Governance Statement and Statement of Responsibilities

Staff Short-Term Benefits

All staff short-term benefits are in respect of basic pay.

	2024	2023
	€	€
Basic pay	<u>771,080</u>	<u>753,656</u>

Termination Benefits

No termination benefits arose in the year (2023: €Nil).

Employee Short-Term Benefits Breakdown

Employees' short-term benefits in excess of €60,000 are categorised into the following bands:

Range of Total Employee Short-Term Benefits (excluding employer pension costs)

From		To	Number of Employees	
€		€	2024	2023
60,000	-	69,999	1	1
70,000	-	79,999	-	-
80,000	-	89,999	-	-
90,000	-	99,999	-	3
100,000	-	109,999	3	-
110,000	-	119,999	-	1
120,000	-	129,999	1	-
130,000	-	139,999	1	1

Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel in the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery consists of the Regulator and five senior managers.

	2024	2023
	€	€
Salaries	615,183	597,939
Employer pension contributions	<u>130,303</u>	<u>130,493</u>
	<u>745,486</u>	<u>728,432</u>

The key management personnel are members of the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery's pension scheme and their entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the terms of the model public service pension scheme.

Governance Statement and Statement of Responsibilities

Regulator Salary and Benefits

The Regulator's remuneration package for the financial period was as follows:

	2024	2023
	€	€
Basic pay	138,052	132,035
Employer pension contributions	41,587	39,572
	179,639	171,607

The Regulator is a member of the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery's pension scheme, and her entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the terms of the model public service pension scheme.

Consultancy Costs

	2024	2023
	€	€
Legal services	55,726	74,932
Tax and financial advisory	6,273	6,273
Research	36,691	815
Lottery consultancy	-	1,600
IT and other consultancy	74,264	7,063
	172,954	90,683

The above costs are included as part of the professional fees in the financial statements of €256,217 (2023: €211,762). All amounts disclosed as legal services are in respect of legal fees.

Travel and Subsistence

	2024	2023
	€	€
Domestic	282	-
International	1070	-
	1,352	-

€814 (2023: Nil) of the above was in respect of the Regulator.

Governance Statement and Statement of Responsibilities

Hospitality Expenditure

€454 was paid in respect of staff hospitality (2023: €578).

Statement of Compliance

The Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, as published by the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform in August 2016, with the following exceptions:

- ▶ The structure of the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery is as a single office holder. Compliance with those parts of the Code dealing with Boards, Board structures and Chairpersons has been achieved by amendment of the Code of Practice for the Governance of the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery to recognise a single office holder.
- ▶ The requirements of the Oversight Agreement and the Performance Delivery Agreement have been complied with by agreement with the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform of a Corporate Governance Assurance Agreement for the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery.



Carol Boate

Regulator of the National Lottery

3 June 2025

Statement on Internal Control

Scope of Responsibility

I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated in relation to the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).

Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform has been in place in the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery for the year ended 31 December 2024 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery is established under the National Lottery Act 2013 as a single office holder. Under statute the Office is constituted without a Board.

The Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery has established an internal audit function which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with me.

The Office of the Regulator has developed a risk management policy which sets out the risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. The policy has been issued to all staff who are expected to work within the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery's risk management policies, to alert management on emerging risks and control weaknesses and to assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own area of work.

Risk and Control Framework

The Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Regulator three times a year. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level.

Statement on Internal Control

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for operation of controls assigned to specific staff. I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- ▶ procedures for all key business processes have been documented,
- ▶ financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability,
- ▶ there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management,
- ▶ there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems, and
- ▶ there are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

Ongoing Monitoring and Review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management in a timely way. I confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- ▶ key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies,
- ▶ reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned, and
- ▶ there are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budget/forecasts.

Procurement

I confirm that the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines. During 2024 the ORNL procured building services in the amount of €84,905 (see Note 7) from the onsite builder without a competitive process. This approach was adopted to manage the cost-effective and efficient move of the office location in the particular circumstances. As required, the matter has been reported to the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Department.

Statement on Internal Control

Review of Effectiveness

I confirm that the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery has procedures in place to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. The Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors and the senior management within the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

I confirm that an annual review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control was carried out in respect of 2024 and completed by 31 March 2025.

Internal Control Issues

No weaknesses in internal control were identified in relation to 2024 that require disclosure in the financial statements.



Carol Boate

Regulator of the National Lottery

3 June 2025



Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Regulator of the National Lottery

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of the Regulator of the National Lottery for the year ended 31 December 2024 as required under the provisions of section 22 of the National Lottery Act 2013. The financial statements comprise

- the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the statement of comprehensive income
- the statement of financial position
- the statement of cash flows, and
- the related notes, including a summary of the significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Regulator of the National Lottery at 31 December 2024 and of its income and expenditure for 2024 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 — *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of the Regulator of the National Lottery and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Report on information other than the financial statements, and on other matters

The Regulator of the National Lottery has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report, the statement on internal control and the governance statement and statement of responsibilities. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

I have nothing to report in that regard.

Irena Grzebieniak

Irena Grzebieniak
For and on behalf of the
Comptroller and Auditor General

5 June 2025

Appendix to the report

Responsibilities of the Regulator of the National Lottery (the Regulator)

As detailed in the governance statement and statement of responsibilities, the Regulator is responsible for

- the preparation of annual financial statements in the form prescribed under section 22 of the National Lottery Act 2013
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- implementing such internal control as the Regulator determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 22 of the National Lottery Act 2013 to audit the financial statements of the Regulator of the National Lottery and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.

- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Regulator of the National Lottery's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Regulator of the National Lottery to cease to continue as a going concern.
- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Regulator of the National Lottery, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

Information other than the financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2024 €	Year ended 31 December 2023 €
Income	3	1,779,800	1,673,700
Administration costs	5	(1,687,724)	(1,504,564)
Operating surplus		92,076	169,136
Interest receivable	4	10,527	1,026
Surplus for the year		102,603	170,162
Retained earnings at the start of the year		3,178,176	3,008,014
Retained earnings at the end of the year		3,280,779	3,178,176

Notes 1 to 14 form part of these Financial Statements.


.....
Carol Boate
Regulator of the National Lottery
3 June 2025

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2024 €	Year ended 31 December 2023 €
Surplus for the year		102,603	170,162
Experience losses / (gains) on retirement benefit obligations	11(b)	109,000	15,000
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of retirement benefit obligations	11(b)	(231,000)	36,000
Total actuarial losses / (gains) in the year		(122,000)	51,000
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefits funding		122,000	(51,000)
Total comprehensive income for year		102,603	170,162

Notes 1 to 14 form part of these financial statements.



Carol Boate
Regulator of the National Lottery
3 June 2025

Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	100,864	15,733
Current assets			
Debtors	9	207,017	154,208
Cash and cash equivalents		3,149,388	3,166,855
		3,356,405	3,321,063
Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)			
Creditors and accruals	10	(176,490)	(158,620)
Net current assets		3,179,915	3,162,443
Retirement benefits			
Retirement benefit obligations	11(b)	(3,006,000)	(2,903,000)
Deferred retirement benefit funding asset	11(c)	3,006,000	2,903,000
Net assets		<u>3,280,779</u>	<u>3,178,176</u>
Represented by			
Accumulated retained earnings	12	<u>3,280,779</u>	<u>3,178,176</u>

Notes 1 to 14 form part of these Financial Statements.


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Carol Boate
Regulator of the National Lottery
3 June 2025

Statement of Cash Flows

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2024 €	Year ended 31 December 2023 €
Net cash flows from operating activities			
Operating surplus for the year		92,076	169,136
Depreciation	7	11,731	20,028
(Increase) in debtors	9	(49,128)	(20,406)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	10	17,870	(38,927)
Net cash inflow from operating activities		72,549	129,831
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	7	(96,862)	(11,902)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Interest received		6,846	1,026
(Decrease) / increase in cash and cash equivalents		(17,467)	118,955
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the financial year		3,166,855	3,047,900
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		3,149,388	3,166,855

Notes 1 to 14 form part of these financial statements.



Carol Boate
Regulator of the National Lottery
3 June 2025

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

1 | Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies adopted by the Regulator of the National Lottery are set out below. They have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding period.

(a) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

Central Government Accounting Standards became applicable from 1 January 2024 and have been complied with where applicable to the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery to the extent that compliance with FRS 102 is maintained. A list of the Standards which came into effect on 1 January 2024 are as follows:

- ▶ CGAS 17 Property, Plant and Equipment
- ▶ CGAS 21 Impairment Non-Cash Generating Assets
- ▶ CGAS 26 Non-Cash Generating Assets
- ▶ CGAS 31 Intangible Assets
- ▶ CGAS 32 Service Concession Arrangements
- ▶ CGAS 12 Inventory
- ▶ CGAS 13 Leases
- ▶ CGAS 19 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
- ▶ CGAS 39A Short Term Employee Benefits

(b) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are prepared on the accruals basis in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and under the historical cost convention.

(c) Levy Income

Levy income represents the amount receivable under the licence by the Regulator from the operator of the National Lottery in respect of the year.

(d) Expenditure Recognition

Expenditure is recognised in the financial statements on an accruals basis as it is incurred.

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

1 | Accounting Policies (Continued)

(e) Operating Leases

Rental expenditure under operating leases is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves over the life of the lease. Expenditure is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease period, except where there are rental increases linked to the expected rate of inflation, in which case these increases are recognised when incurred. Any lease incentives received are recognised over the life of the lease.

(f) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation, charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure, is calculated in order to write off the cost of assets over their estimated useful lives, under the straight-line method, at the annual rate of 6⅓% for leasehold improvements, 33⅓% for computer equipment, and 20% for all other assets from date of acquisition.

(g) Foreign Currencies

The financial statements are presented in Euro (€).

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are converted into euro during the year and are included in the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are converted into euro at exchange rates ruling at the balance sheet date and resulting gains and losses are included in the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year.

(h) Employee benefits

Short-term benefits

Short-term benefits such as holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the year, and benefits that are accrued at year-end are included in the Creditors and accruals figure in the Statement of Financial Position.

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Retirement benefits

The National Lottery Act 2013 provides that the Regulator may, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform, determine the conditions of service of staff.

The Regulator is currently establishing pension arrangements in respect of all employees in cooperation with the Department and is making the necessary deductions from salaries, which are transferred to the Exchequer monthly in arrears, as agreed with the Department.

The Regulator is providing for employer contributions at a rate of 30% for non-Single Scheme (non-personal pension contribution), 25% for non-Single Scheme (personal pension contribution) and at a rate of three times employee contributions for Single Scheme members.

Pension benefits are funded from the Central Exchequer. Provision is made for the pension liability of all Scheme members together with recognition of a matching asset for the funding of the liability from Exchequer sources.

(i) Critical accounting judgements and estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the statement of financial position date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgements have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Depreciation and Residual Values

The Regulator has reviewed the useful lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes and has concluded that the useful lives and residual values are appropriate.

Retirement benefits

Pension liabilities are recognised in the financial statements and an actuarial valuation of those liabilities, carried out by a qualified actuary, uses specific financial assumptions as set out in note 11.

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

2 | Establishment of the Office of Regulator of the National Lottery

The Office of Regulator of the National Lottery, which is located at 5 George's Dock IFSC Dublin 1, was established under Section 7 of the National Lottery Act 2013 and the holder of the Office is known as the Regulator of the National Lottery. Details in respect of the operations of the Regulator and its principal activities are included in the Report of the Regulator in Section 1.

3 | Income

Section 24 of the National Lottery Act 2013 provides for the payment of an annual levy by the operator of the National Lottery to the Regulator. The amount of the levy, as specified in the licence with the operator, is €1,500,000 per annum, subject to indexation with the Consumer Price Index. For 2024, the average Consumer Price Index of 6.34% for the 12 months ended 31 December 2023 as published by the Central Statistics Office in January 2024 was applied by the operator.

	2024	2023
	€	€
Levy income, for the year	<u>1,779,800</u>	<u>1,673,700</u>

4 | Interest Costs

Interest receivable on funds on deposit was €10,527 in 2024 (2023: €1,026).

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

5 | Administration Costs

	2024	2023
	€	€
Salaries and staff costs	1,006,886	988,493
Outsourced labour costs	28,444	7,482
Professional fees (Note 6)	256,217	211,762
External audit*	18,900	18,900
Internal audit	11,395	18,468
Rent, service charges and maintenance	204,781	127,516
Cleaning, heat and light	5,958	3,446
Insurances	37,120	34,824
Travel, subsistence and staff hospitality	1,806	578
Recruitment	29,899	-
Training costs and memberships	16,635	14,820
Office supplies and equipment	3,307	2,088
Information and communication technology	36,235	37,057
Publications	6,954	9,027
Depreciation	11,731	20,028
Other administration costs	11,456	10,075
	1,687,724	1,504,564

* External audit includes an amount of €7,600 (2023: €7,600) for audit fees in respect of the National Lottery Fund.

6 | Professional Fees

	2024	2023
	€	€
Legal services	55,726	74,932
Tax and financial advisory	6,273	6,273
Public relations/marketing	70,982	90,235
Pensions and human resources	6,930	6,152
Lottery consultancy	-	1,600
Research	36,691	815
IT and Other	79,615	31,755
	256,217	211,762

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

7 | Property, Plant and Equipment

	Leasehold Improvements	Computer Equipment	Office Fitting, Furniture & Equipment	Total
	€	€	€	€
Cost				
At 31 December 2023	-	36,869	12,159	49,028
Additions during year	84,905	152	11,805	96,862
Disposals during year	-	(831)	(891)	(1,722)
At 31 December 2024	84,905	36,190	23,073	144,168
Depreciation				
At 31 December 2023	-	25,223	8,072	33,295
Charge for year	3,775	5,611	2,345	11,731
Depreciation on disposals	-	(831)	(891)	(1,722)
At 31 December 2024	3,775	30,003	9,526	43,304
Net Book Value				
At 31 December 2024	81,130	6,187	13,547	100,864
At 31 December 2023	-	11,646	4,087	15,733

Included in disposals are fully depreciated fixed assets which were no longer in use, had nil value and were scrapped and written off in the year. Leasehold improvements of €84,905 capitalised in the year are being depreciated over 15 years, being the period remaining under the lease to January 2039.

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

8 | Operating Lease

The Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery has commitments in respect of an operating lease on office accommodation at 5 George's Dock, IFSC. This lease is held for a period of 15 years, which commenced in January 2024 and will expire in January 2039. There is a break clause included in the lease at the Regulator's option at the end of year ten.

Lease Commitments

At 31 December 2024 the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery had the following future minimum lease payments in respect of the non-cancellable portion of the lease for each of the following periods:

	2024	2023
	€	€
Payable not later than one year	124,087	-
Payable within two to five years	527,369	-
Payable later than five years	620,434	-
	<u>1,271,890</u>	<u>-</u>

9 | Debtors

	2024	2023
	€	€
Accrued income	120,384	101,017
Prepayments	86,008	53,191
Bike to Work Scheme	625	-
	<u>207,017</u>	<u>154,208</u>

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

for the year ended 31 December 2023

10 | Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)

	2024	2023
	€	€
Trade creditors and accruals	130,965	107,592
Pension contributions (Note 11)	13,436	14,496
PAYE/PRSI	22,489	22,675
Additional superannuation contribution	2,072	2,313
PSWT liability	5,953	10,699
VAT liability	1,575	845
	176,490	158,620

11 | Pension Provision

A draft defined benefit pension scheme for the Office of the Regulator, based on the Public Service Model Scheme, was submitted to the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform on 24th November 2015 and is awaiting approval.

The rate of contributions in the year, including employer contributions of 30% of pensionable pay for non-Single Scheme (non-personal pension contribution) members, 25% of pensionable pay for non-Single Scheme (personal pension contribution) members, and of three times employee contributions for Public Service Pension (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 members (i.e. Single Scheme members) are agreed with the Department and transferred to the Exchequer, one month in arrears. At the 31 December 2024 the amount of contributions to be transferred to the Exchequer is €13,436.

Non-Single Scheme members

With regard to non-Single Scheme members, the liability for retirement benefits payable to non-Single Scheme members is assumed by the Central Exchequer. All employer and employee contributions based on a percentage of salaries of the scheme members are transferred to the Central Exchequer as agreed with the Department. The pension liability of non-Single Scheme members and the matching asset are recognised on the Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2024.

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

11 | Pension Provision (Continued)

Single Scheme members

With regard to Single Scheme members, the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery was prescribed as a relevant authority for the purpose of the Single Scheme in 2019. Employee and employer contributions are transferred to the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform on a monthly basis in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.

Actuarial Assumptions

The liability for all Scheme members as provided for in the financial statements, is based on an actuarial valuation carried out by a qualified actuary using the financial assumptions below for the purpose of FRS 102.

	Year ended 31 December 2024	Year ended 31 December 2023
Discount rate	3.60%	3.50%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.60%	3.85%
Rate of increase in pension - single scheme	2.10%	2.35%
Rate of increase in pension - non-single scheme	3.10%	3.35%
Inflation	2.10%	2.35%

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

11 | Pension Provision (Continued)

(a) Retirement Benefit Costs

Analysis of retirement benefit costs charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.

Retirement Benefit Costs	Non-Single Scheme €	Single Scheme €	2023 €	2023 €
Total Employer Contributions	85,700	67,683	153,383	155,480
Current Service Costs*	93,000	55,000	148,000	143,000
Interest Costs	83,000	21,000	104,000	101,000
Adjustments to Deferred Exchequer Pension Funding	(176,000)	(76,000)	(252,000)	(244,000)
Total charged to Statement of Income & Expenditure & Retained Revenue Reserves	85,700	67,683	153,383	155,480

* Employee contributions have been included in the calculation of the current service costs figure.

Employer contributions must be paid by public service bodies who are funded “wholly or mainly from sources other than directly or indirectly out of the Central Fund”. As a self-financing public body, the sum of €153,383 represents the Office of the Regulator’s liability for employer contributions in respect of all Scheme members. These amounts are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform monthly in arrears.

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

11 | Pension Provision (Continued)

(b) Movement in scheme net retirement benefit obligations during the financial year

	Non-Single Scheme	Single Scheme	2024	2023
	€	€	€	€
Net Pension Liability at 1 January	2,337,000	566,000	2,903,000	2,575,000
Current Service Costs	93,000	55,000	148,000	143,000
Employee Contributions	11,000	22,000	33,000	33,000
Pensions paid in the year	(60,000)	-	(60,000)	-
Interest Costs	83,000	21,000	104,000	101,000
Experience losses/(gains) on scheme liabilities	103,000	6,000	109,000	15,000
Changes in assumptions	(191,000)	(40,000)	(231,000)	36,000
Net Pension Liability at 31 December	<u>2,376,000</u>	<u>630,000</u>	<u>3,006,000</u>	<u>2,903,000</u>

(c) Deferred funding for retirement benefits

The Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for retirement benefits on the basis of the set of assumptions described above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the retirement benefit scheme, the prescribing of the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery as a relevant authority for the purposes of the Single Scheme and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process.

(d) Defined benefit obligations

	Non-Single Scheme	Single Scheme	2024	2023
	€	€	€	€
Defined benefit obligations	2,376,000	630,000	3,006,000	2,903,000

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

12 | Accumulated Retained Earnings

	2024
	€
At beginning of year	3,178,176
Surplus for year	102,603
Retained earnings at the end of the year	<u>3,280,779</u>

13 | Capital Commitments

There were no commitments for capital expenditure at 31 December 2024.

14 | Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Regulator of the National Lottery on 3rd June 2025.



National Lottery Fund Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2024

Governance Statement and Statement of Responsibilities	67
Statement on Internal Control	68
Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General	71
Financial Statements	73

National Lottery Fund

Governance Statement and Statement of Responsibilities

Governance

The National Lottery Fund is established under section 8 of the National Lottery Act 1986 and continues in being in accordance with section 44 of the National Lottery Act 2013. The Fund comprises a single bank account held at the Central Bank of Ireland. The Fund has no employees or directors.

Regulator Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Regulator in respect of the Fund are set out in the National Lottery Act, 2013. Under section 44 of the National Lottery Act, 2013, the Regulator manages and controls the Fund. In addition the Regulator is required to submit accounts of the Fund annually to the Comptroller and Auditor General for audit and for a copy of an abstract of the accounts so audited together with a copy of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas.



Carol Boate

Regulator of the National Lottery

3 June 2025

National Lottery Fund

Statement on Internal Control

Scope of Responsibility

I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated in relation to the National Lottery Fund. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016), as it applies to the Office of the Regulator and the National Lottery Fund.

Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform has been in place for the National Lottery Fund for the year ended 31 December 2024 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The National Lottery Fund is established under section 8 of the National Lottery Act 1986 and is managed and controlled by the Regulator.

The Office of the Regulator has established an internal audit function which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with me, in respect of the National Lottery Fund.

The Office of the Regulator has developed a risk management policy which sets out the risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. The policy has been issued to all staff, who are expected to work within the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery's risk management policies, to alert management on emerging risks and control weaknesses and to assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own area of work.

Risk and Control Framework

The Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery has implemented a risk management system in respect of the National Lottery Fund which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing the National Lottery Fund and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated three times a year. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level.

National Lottery Fund

Statement on Internal Control

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for operation of controls assigned to specific staff. I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- ▶ procedures for all key business processes have been documented,
- ▶ financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability,
- ▶ there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems, and
- ▶ there are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

Ongoing Monitoring and Review

Formal procedures have been established in the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery for monitoring control processes and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action in a timely way. I confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- ▶ an organisation structure with clear operating and reporting procedures;
- ▶ authorisation limits, segregation of duties and delegated authorities to approve and process transactions of the National Lottery Fund;
- ▶ a system to facilitate the recording and reconciliation of all transactions and to provide a complete audit trail of transactions processed;
- ▶ processes to identify and evaluate business risks by:
 - ▶ identifying the nature, extent and financial implications of risks facing the National Lottery Fund including the extent and categories which I regard as acceptable
 - ▶ assessing the likelihood of identified risks occurring
 - ▶ assessing the Office's ability to manage and mitigate the risks that do occur;
- ▶ weekly monitoring and reconciliations of amounts processed in the National Lottery Fund;
- ▶ a set of policies and procedures relating to operational and financial controls;
- ▶ procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of the internal control systems include the work of Internal Audit and management reviews.

National Lottery Fund

Statement on Internal Control

Procurement

Due to the nature of the National Lottery Fund, procurement matters do not arise.

Review of Effectiveness

I confirm that the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery has procedures in place to monitor the effectiveness of the National Lottery Fund risk management and control procedures. The Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors and the senior management within the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

I confirm that an annual review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control was carried out in respect of 2024 and completed by 31 March 2025.

Internal Control Issues

No weaknesses in internal control were identified in relation to 2024 that require disclosure in the financial statements.



Carol Boate

Regulator of the National Lottery

3 June 2025



Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

National Lottery Fund

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of the National Lottery Fund prepared by the Regulator of the National Lottery for the year ended 31 December 2024 under section 44 of the National Lottery Act 2013. The financial statements comprise the account of receipts and payments, the reserve account and related notes.

In my opinion, the financial statements properly present

- the payments into and out of the National Lottery Fund for 2024, and
- the balance of the Fund at 31 December 2024.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of the Regulator of the National Lottery and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Report on statement on internal control and on other matters

The Regulator has presented a statement on internal control together with the financial statements. My responsibilities to report in relation to the information in the statement, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

I have nothing to report in that regard.

Seamus McCarthy
Comptroller and Auditor General

5 June 2025

Appendix to the report

Responsibilities of the Regulator of the National Lottery (the Regulator)

The governance statement and statement of responsibilities sets out the Regulator's responsibilities in relation to the financial statements. These are

- the preparation of annual financial statements as required by Section 44 of the National Lottery Act 2013
- ensuring that the financial statements properly present the National Lottery Fund's affairs at year-end and transactions in the year
- ensuring the regularity of transactions, and
- implementing such internal control as the Regulator determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 44 of the 2013 Act to audit the financial statements of the National Lottery Fund and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.

I communicate with the Regulator regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

Statement on Internal Control

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the statement on internal control presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the statement on internal control presented and, in doing so, consider whether the information therein is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this information, I am required to report that fact.

Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

National Lottery Fund

Account of Receipts and Payments

for the year ended 31 December 2024

		2024		2023	
	Note	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Received from the operator	4		564,038		537,365
less:					
Paid to the operator in respect of:	5				
Prizes		232,827		210,338	
Operator's entitlement		<u>82,396</u>	<u>315,223</u>	<u>84,309</u>	<u>294,647</u>
			248,815		242,718
less:					
Paid to the Regulator in respect of Regulator Levy	8		<u>1,764</u>		<u>1,662</u>
			247,051		241,056
Investment Interest Received	6		<u>1,375</u>		<u>910</u>
			248,426		241,966
Transferred to the Central Fund	7		<u>(238,341)</u>		<u>(241,006)</u>
Increase in Investment			<u>10,085</u>		<u>960</u>

Reserve Account

		2024	2023
		€'000	€'000
Balance on deposit at 1 January		20,780	19,820
Increase in Investment		<u>10,085</u>	<u>960</u>
Balance on deposit at 31 December	6	30,865	20,780
less:			
Liability for Regulator Levy	8	(117)	(101)
Liability for Prizes and Operator's Entitlement	9	(8,251)	-
Liability to Prizes Fund Account	10	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,442)</u>
Balance available for distribution through the Central Fund	7	<u>22,497</u>	<u>16,237</u>

Notes 1 to 12 form part of these Accounts



Carol Boate
Regulator of the National Lottery
3 June 2025

National Lottery Fund

Notes to the Accounts

1 | The National Lottery

The National Lottery, established in 1986, continues in accordance with the National Lottery Act 2013 ("the Act"). On 30 November 2014 Premier Lotteries Ireland Limited ("PLI"), an Irish registered company, commenced as operator under a licence ("the Licence") for 20 years granted by the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform on 27 February 2014.

2 | The National Lottery Fund

The National Lottery Fund ("the Fund"), established under the National Lottery Act 1986, continues in being by virtue of Section 44 of the National Lottery Act 2013. Under Section 7 of the Act, the Regulator of the National Lottery was appointed by the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform and in accordance with Section 44 of the Act, the Regulator manages and controls the Fund.

The Fund receives proceeds of the National Lottery from the operator and pays amounts in respect of prizes, Regulator's annual levy and the operators' entitlements under the Licence. The Regulator transfers funds, at intervals determined by the Minister, to the Exchequer (after appropriate provision for prospective or contingent liabilities) for application for the purposes set out in the Act. The amounts due to the Central Fund of the Exchequer for Good Causes are calculated as laid out in the Act and the Licence as being 65% of Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR). GGR is defined as total net sales minus prizes, as defined in Clause 1.1.24 of the Licence.

In accordance with clause 6.2 of the Licence, the Regulator operates the National Lottery Fund account in the Central Bank of Ireland.

3 | Accounts of the Fund

The accounts detail amounts paid into and by the Fund during the year under review together with an analysis of the balance held at the year end. Under Section 44 of the National Lottery Act 2013, the accounts of the Fund are required to be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General, and a copy of an abstract of the accounts so audited together with a copy of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon is to be laid by the Regulator before each House of the Oireachtas.

National Lottery Fund

Notes to the Accounts

4 | Amounts Received from the Operator

As required by the Act amounts received from the operator comprise ticket sales proceeds less retailers' remuneration and prizes paid by retailers. Amounts received from the operator were €564 million in 2024 (2023: €537 million), and this includes the receipt of €2,391,811 in respect of year ended 31 December 2023 as referred to in Note 10 below.

Amounts received from the operator are a function of the Sales of National Lottery products in the year and of deductions for retailers' remuneration and prizes paid by retailers. Amounts transferred to the Exchequer are a function of the amounts generated for Good Causes in the year.

An extract from the audited financial statements of the operator, Premier Lotteries Ireland DAC, as audited by Deloitte for the year ended 31 December 2024 and which were prepared on an accrual's basis, provides an overview of the amounts accounted for by the operator in the year.

Extract from the Audited Financial Statements of Premier Lotteries Ireland DAC for the year ended 31 December 2024	2024 €'m	2023 €'m
Gross ticket sales	855.7	829.4
Prizes	(487.6)	(478.8)
Good Causes	(239.3)	(227.9)

The Good Causes amount included in the audited financial statements of the operator of €239.3 million (2023 €227.9 million) is the amount attributable to Good Causes on an accruals basis on Sales arising in 2024. The amount included as Transferred to the Central Fund in these Fund accounts of €238.3 million (2023: €241.0 million) is the actual transfers from the National Lottery Fund to the Central Fund during the year to 31 December 2024 (see Note 7).

Based on the extract from the operator's audited financial statements above the following percentages are derived:

	2024	2023
As a percentage of Gross ticket sales	%	%
Gross ticket sales	100%	100%
Prizes*	57.0%	57.7%
Good Causes	28.0%	27.5%

* In accordance with S.40(2) of the National Lottery Act 2013, the total value of the prizes distributed in the National Lottery in any financial year of the operator shall be equal to or not less than 50 percent of the total moneys received by the operator in that year in respect of the sale of National Lottery tickets in that year or such other greater percentage as may be specified in the licence.

National Lottery Fund

Notes to the Accounts

5 | Amounts Paid to the Operator

The amounts paid from the Fund to the operator totalled €315 million in 2024 (2023: €295 million). This comprised €233 million in respect of prizes payments (2023: €210 million) and €82 million in respect of operator's entitlement (2023: €84 million). The payments for prizes of €233 million in 2024 includes the payment in respect of year ended 31 December 2023 of €6,833,747 as referred to in Note 10 below.

Prize amounts are paid to the Prizes Fund Account maintained by the operator. Winners of prizes are required to claim their prizes within the required period as stated in the relevant game rules, generally 90 days. If a winner does not claim their prize within the required period, the prize becomes an Expired Unclaimed Prize. The amount of Expired Unclaimed Prizes arising in 2024 was €15.1 million (2023: €19.6 million). In accordance with the specific requirements of Clause 6.9.2 of the Licence to Operate the National Lottery, all Expired Unclaimed Prizes are forfeited in favour of the operator and are to be used by the operator solely for the promotion of the National Lottery within 365 days of the date on which they were forfeited.

Where the Regulator considers that the Operator has breached the Act or Licence, Clause 22 of the Licence empowers the Regulator to withhold monies from payments due to the Operator under the Licence, where the circumstances of the breach and its impact meet a specific set of factors set out in the clause. On 26 June 2024, the Regulator decided to withhold €23,000 from payments due to the Operator. The decision to withhold followed her determination in 2023 of a breach of the Licence by the Operator in relation to the "Check My Numbers" facility and statements issued to participants that were not true and capable of independent verification, and her consideration of the factors under Clause 22.8 of the Licence and of the Operator's representations. The €23,000 was withheld from payments due to the Operator on 5 July 2024 and subsequently transferred to the Exchequer for Good Causes.

6 | Investments of the Fund

All moneys of the Fund are held in a deposit account maintained at the Central Bank of Ireland. Interest is calculated on a daily basis and paid twice yearly. Interest is recognised on payment or receipt. The estimated amount of interest earned to 31 December 2024, but not yet received at the year-end amounted to €351,000.

National Lottery Fund

Notes to the Accounts

7 | Transfers to the Central Fund

Funds are allocated to Good Causes pursuant to Clause 6.6 of the Licence and are 65% of GGR calculated on an annual basis, in accordance with Schedule 2 to the Licence. Following provision for current liabilities of the Fund and any prospective or contingent liabilities, the Regulator arranges the transfer of funds allocated to Good Causes, at intervals determined by the Minister, from the National Lottery Fund to the Central Fund. The allocation of Central Fund moneys to beneficiaries is voted by the Oireachtas through the annual Estimates process and moneys are issued during the year and accounted for through the Appropriation Accounts.

8 | Liability for Regulator Levy

In accordance with the National Lottery Act 2013, the Licence provides for the payment by the operator of an annual levy to the Regulator to meet expenses properly incurred by the Regulator. Such amounts are deducted from payments to the operator and are retained in the Fund for payment to the Regulator. The amount due to the Regulator at 31 December 2024 is €116,703 (2023: €100,896).

9 | Liability for Prizes and Operator's Entitlement

The Fund received €14.089m from the operator on 31 December 2024 in respect of week ended 21 December 2024. Subsequent to the year end, on 3 January 2025, the Fund transferred €8.251m (€6.241m in respect of prizes and €2.010m in respect of operator's entitlement) to the operator in respect of this receipt. The amount of €8.251m is recognised as a liability in the Reserve Account at the year end.

10 | Liability to Prizes Fund Account

Payments from the Fund to the Prizes Fund Account in respect of prizes are made weekly, based on expected prizes won as notified by the operator. The liability of the Fund to the Prizes Fund Account is for actual prizes won. On 31 December 2024 the amount due to the Fund from the Prizes Fund Account is €1,760,431, of which €616,151 is due to be transferred to the operator. The receipt, and subsequent payment, occurred on 31 March 2025 and 1 April 2025 respectively. (On 31 December 2023 an amount of €6,833,747 was due from the Fund to the Prizes Fund Account, of which €2,391,811 was due to be transferred to the Fund from the operator and €4,441,936 was the contribution from Good Causes. The receipt, and subsequent payment, occurred on 28 March 2024 and 3 April 2024 respectively).

National Lottery Fund

Notes to the Accounts

11 | Audit Fee

The audit fee is paid by the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery. The amount charged in respect of 2024 is €7,600 (2023: €7,600).

12 | Approval of the National Lottery Fund Account

The National Lottery Fund Account in respect of the year ended 31 December 2024 was approved by the Regulator on 3rd June 2025.

Notes

Notes



Rialálaí an Chrannchuir Náisiúnta
Regulator of the National Lottery

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