

## Funds raised for good causes

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

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Reporting Period: Quarter 3, 2016-17 (October to December)

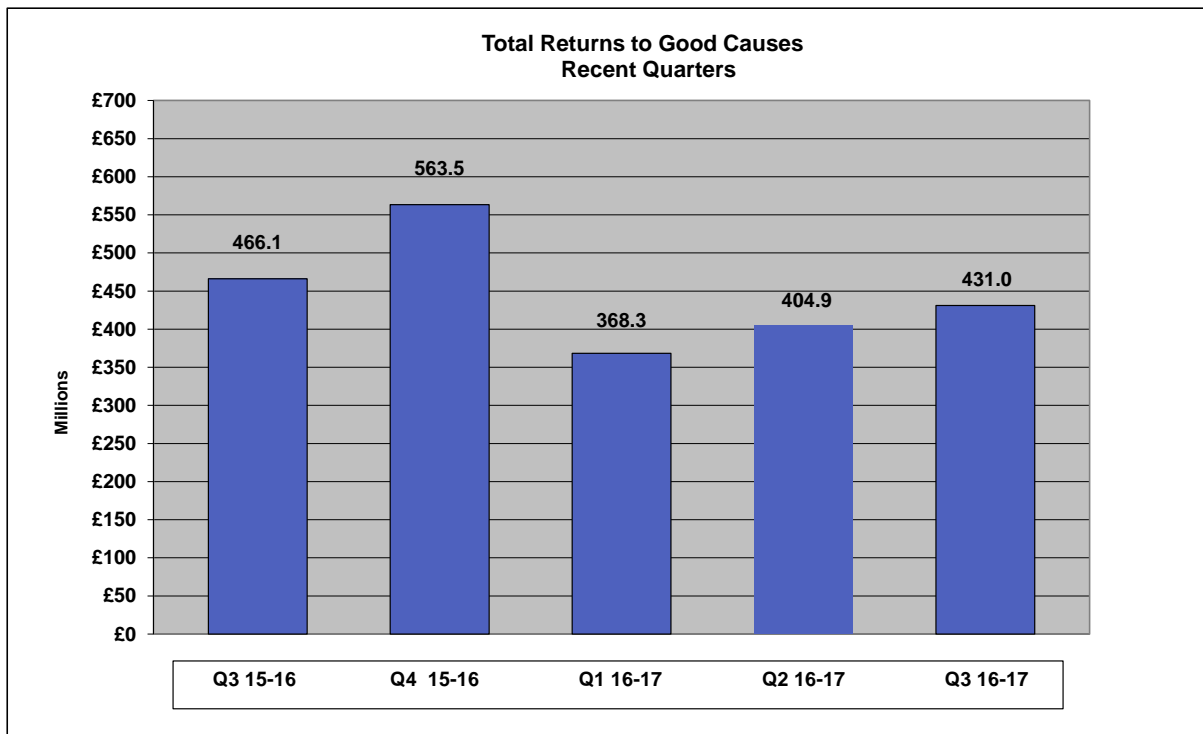
Since its launch in November 1994, the National Lottery has raised over £36 billion for good causes that include sports (including Olympic athletes and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games), arts and heritage, as well as health and education and the environment.

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

#### Total funds raised for good causes between Quarter 3 2015-16 and Quarter 3 2016-17<sup>1</sup>

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

The total raised for the NLDF in Quarter 3 (October to December) was £431.0m. This was £26.1m (6.4%) above the July to September quarter's total but £35.1m (7.5%) below Quarter 3 in 2015-16:



<sup>1</sup> These amounts relate to the total value of proceeds from game sales raised for the NLDF in calendar quarters. Quarter 3 2016-17 comprises funds raised between 25 September and 24 December 2016. They include all other income and adjustments from game sales, including unclaimed prizes.



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## **Commentary**

The total for the third quarter was again an improvement on the previous quarter but it was also below that recorded in the same quarter last year, when sales were higher. The main drivers of the difference compared to the previous quarter were:

- Higher EuroMillions sales, including where a guaranteed jackpot rolled to over £153m after the launch of the new EuroMillions game at the end of September
- Lower Lotto returns despite comparable sales, reflecting a higher average prize pay out in Quarter 3
- Higher unclaimed prizes, reflecting the timing of scratchcard payments.