

Funds raised for good causes

Income from game sales by quarter and versus last year

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Reporting Period: Quarter 2, 2019-20 (July to September)

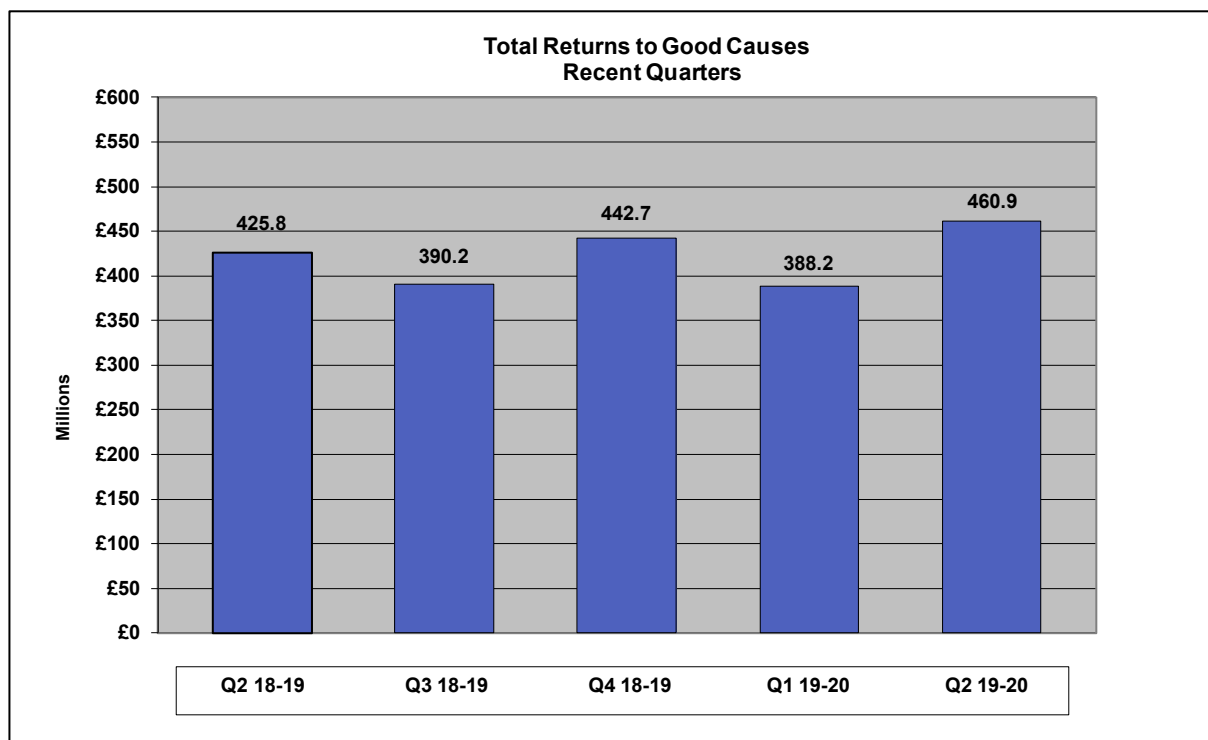
Since its launch in November 1994, the National Lottery has raised over £40 billion for good causes that include sports (including Olympic athletes and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games), arts and heritage, as well as communities, health, education and the environment.

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 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 2 2018-19 and Quarter 2 2019-20¹

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

The total raised for the NLDF in Quarter 2 (July to September) was £460.9m. This was £72.7m (18.7%) above the April to June quarter (Q1) of 2019-20 and £35.1m (8.2%) above Quarter 2 in 2018-19:



¹ These amounts relate to the total value of proceeds from game sales raised for the NLDF in approximate calendar quarters. Quarter 2 of 2019-20 includes funds raised from sales made between 1 July and 28 September 2019. Quarter 2 of 2018-19 includes funds raised from sales made between 24 June and 29 September 2018. They include all other income and adjustments from game sales, including unclaimed prizes.

Commentary

The total for the second quarter of the 2019-20 financial year was higher than that recorded in the first quarter and above the amount recorded for Quarter 2 of 2018-19.

Performance in the second quarter of 2019-20 versus Quarter 1 was as a result of the following:

- Substantially higher sales and returns from EuroMillions, whose jackpot rolled to a recent record level of over £169m at the end of the quarter.
- Higher sales and returns from Lotto in the quarter, with the jackpot rolling more frequently and four times to its 'must be won' level.
- Increased sales and returns from instant win games played online.
- Marketing investment from the NLDF of over £22m was much greater than in Quarter 1, thus the total for Quarter 2 (before these adjustments) would have been higher still.

Performance was better than in Quarter 2 of 2018-19 due to:

- EuroMillions sales and returns up by over a third, with more rollovers than in the previous year.
- Strong Lotto sales and contributions despite one fewer rollover and lower overall jackpot values (due to the revised 'must be won' game rules in operation since Quarter 3 last year).
- Much higher sales and proceeds from instant win games played online.
- Once again, much higher comparative marketing investment drawn down from the NLDF.
- NB: The figures quoted above for Quarter 2 of 2018-19 include 14 trading weeks².

² Excluding the additional week (ending 30 June 2018), the total for 2018-19 would be £397.7m. On this basis, Quarter 2 of the current year would represent an increase of £63.2m (15.9%) on previous year.