

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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HOME OFFICE  
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13 May 1988

*Dear Andy,*

**"NATIONAL" LOTTERIES**

The Home Secretary believes that the Prime Minister may wish to be aware of developments on the "National Health Service" Lottery about which he has written to H Committee today. I attach a copy of the Home Secretary's letter to the Lord President.

The Prime Minister will see that there are doubts about the lawfulness of the lottery, at least in that it is being promoted before its promoters have been properly registered as required under the current legislation, and that the Gaming Board for Great Britain intend to refer the evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service.

The Home Secretary has invited colleagues to note the position, and to offer any preliminary views on the policy on "national" or "state" lotteries which the "NHS" lottery has placed on the public agenda. The Home Secretary would be grateful to know if the Prime Minister has any comments on the issues raised in his letter, including his proposal that it would be premature publicly to propose a change in policy, at least while uncertainty and potential controversy surround the "NHS" lottery.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Philip Lawton*

P J C MAWER

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