

Prime Minister 2

CCP/14

Follow up the introduction of the Skill Ball competition idea (not a lottery but it has implications), 'H' is planning to discuss the pros and cons of lotteries.



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Mr Luce is here quite supportive of the idea for the Arts.

From the Minister for the Arts

I will keep you informed as 'H' discusses and show you papers in advance.

C90/1013

CMS
16/2

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
LONDON SW1

ml

9 February 1990

Dear Geoffrey,
at fear

MAJOR LOTTERIES

I note from your letter of 5 February to David Waddington that you would like H Committee to consider the question of major lotteries once the Skill-Ball competition has been launched and we are in a better position to assess its implications.

I look forward to this discussion. The pros and cons of introducing major charitable lotteries need to be carefully considered. The papers attached to David's letter to you of 21 December concentrate on the problems. These are not insuperable. Lotteries could have a useful role to play in stimulating additional private sector contributions to charitable causes, including the arts. I have been struck by the groundswell of support for them amongst the arts community.

However it would be difficult to encourage greater private support in this way, if the resulting expenditure were then deemed to displace public expenditure as Richard Ryder's letter of 22 January implies. As you know it has been a central aim of my approach to support for the arts and museums and galleries to encourage increased private sector contributions through sponsorship, incentive funding and the encouragement of commercial activities by the national galleries and museums. We have been extremely successful in generating additional revenue. By agreement with Treasury this expenditure has not been counted as displacing public expenditure. It would therefore be essential that the proceeds of any major lotteries should be treated in the same way as other private sector funding for the arts.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Richard Luce

RICHARD LUCE

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