



Department for
Digital, Culture,
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Julian Knight MP
Chair, DCMS Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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Dear Julian,

When my predecessor appeared before the Committee on 5 July he said he would follow up to outline the circumstances in which National Lottery products (tickets and scratchcards) can be purchased via credit card.

It has never been possible to use a credit card to purchase tickets or games via the National Lottery website or app. In April 2020, the Gambling Commission banned all online gambling operators and betting shops from accepting payments from credit cards (including via e-wallets) for gambling services. The acceptance of credit cards in all other land-based gambling settings was already banned under the framework of the Gambling Act 2005. A decision was made at the time that society lottery products could, like National Lottery products, continue to be purchased via credit card in non-remote settings such as supermarkets and grocery shops. The Commission's view was that it would be disproportionate to prohibit such sales since society lottery and National Lottery products can be purchased alongside other items as part of a wider shop, and the transaction would not be captured as a gambling transaction due to the non-gambling Merchant Category Code of the retailer.

To ensure that the interests of those who participate in the National Lottery are protected, in accordance with National Lottery legislation, the operator provides retailers with training in identifying and preventing excessive play and, as my predecessor set out to the Committee, National Lottery products are consistently shown to be associated with lower problem gambling rates than commercial gambling products.

The department is grateful for the opportunity to provide the Committee with further information on this important point.

With best wishes,

Damian Collins MP
Minister for Tech and the Digital Economy

