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Responding to the Government's announcement to increase society lottery limits for the per draw sales limit to £5 million, the per draw prize limit to £500,000 and the annual sales limit to £50 million Tony Vick, Chair of the Lotteries Council, said:

"After seven years spent engaging with Ministers on reforms to society lotteries, we welcome the Government's decision to take a step in the right direction by increasing the annual sales limit from £10 million to £50 million. We will continue to campaign for increasing the annual sales limit to £100 million, as the Government itself acknowledged when it made its original recommendation last year, and we look forward to setting out this case in a further consultation.

Whilst the announcement offers some clarity to the hundreds of charities across the country that are facing increasing financial uncertainty – and we would urge the Government to implement these changes as a matter of urgency – this is a missed opportunity to introduce real reform to the sector.

We agree with the Minister that society lotteries are a vital funding mechanism for thousands of charities and we regret the decision to ignore reforms that would have enabled them to do more.

Increasing the maximum prize limit to £1 million, regardless of sales, would have offered future head room for charity lotteries to grow and to continue providing the much-needed funding they already contribute to the nation's charities. Allowing new lotteries to aggregate their returns to good causes over a three year period would have enabled them to take into account sizeable start-up costs. And by raising the sales thresholds the regulatory burden on small charity lotteries would have been significantly reduced."

16 July 2019