

## **Advance Brief**

### **Chapter 7: The National Lottery Fund**

The National Lottery has been through a significant period of transition over the last three years.

In April 2012 the Government agreed that there would be a competitive process for the award of the next Lottery licence and that this would include a move away from issuing a 10 year operating licence towards a longer-term lease arrangement. The new licence was awarded to Premier Lotteries Ireland (PLI) in February 2014 and the company took over operations on 30 November 2014.

New legislation governing the National Lottery was passed in 2013. This legislation allowed, amongst other things, for the establishment of the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery. Mr Liam Sloyan was appointed as the first Regulator and took up office in November 2014.

Prior to the establishment of the Regulator's Office, the Lottery Fund had been under the control and management of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (previously the Department of Finance). Responsibility for management and control of the Fund now lies with the new Regulator.

#### **Funds for Good Causes**

Appendix 1 of the Revised Estimates for Public Services (REV) provides a breakdown by department of areas supported by National Lottery funding. The estimate of funds available from the Lottery for those areas in 2014, as provided in the REV, was €200m; however, the outturn was €178m. The variance was mainly due to technical and timing issues relating to the transition to the new lottery regime. Now that the transition is complete, the Department, in conjunction with the new Lottery Regulator, is looking at how much of the balance which was held in the Fund at the end of 2014 may be transferred to the Exchequer.

The estimate for funds for Good Causes in 2015, as published in the 2015 REV, was €200m. The latest estimates received from the Office of the Regulator of the National Lottery indicate that the forecast outturn for 2015 will be in the region of €197m and the estimate for 2016 is €203m. These estimates do not take account of any additional transfer of surplus moneys from 2014 as outlined above.