Raffle and lottery guidelines

Thank you for choosing to hold a fundraising raffle for Helen & Douglas House. Raffles can be a fantastic way to raise money, but it's really important that you ensure your fundraising activity is legal. We've provided a short introduction below but more detailed advice can be found at gamblingcommission.gov.uk



The easiest way to hold a raffle is to sell tickets during an event – and not sell tickets in advance.

Selling tickets before the event mostly requires a license from a local authority.

Holding a raffle during an event

A raffle held during an event is legally known as an 'Incidental Lottery'. **You don't need a lottery licence to hold a raffle at an event so long as you follow the rules below**:

- Tickets must be sold at the location of the event, during the event and a physical ticket must be provided.
- The draw can be at the event or after it has finished.
- The event may last more than a single day.
- Promoters of the lottery may not deduct more than £100 from the proceeds of the lottery for expenses.

Other ways of holding a raffle/lottery

Promoting and selling raffle tickets prior to the event

If you want to **sell raffle tickets to the public in advance of the draw**, through various types of media (i.e. online as well as paper tickets), and/or at a variety of locations, then this called a 'Small Society Lottery', and **requires a license from a local authority**.

Without a licence you **cannot** sell raffle tickets in advance of the draw. It is not possible to register Helen & Douglas House with your local authority as the licence holder.

If you **expect to generate high income from a raffle** that is not linked to an event you are organising, **it may be worth buying a lottery license from your local authority**. The cost of the licence can be considered a reasonable expense providing your total expense deductions are £100 or lower.

Other legal ways to sell tickets in advance



A free prize draw:

Tickets available for a suggested donation which can be paid in through your fundraising page. If you don't already have a fundraising page for Helen & Douglas House you can set one up for free on Just Giving **hdh.org.uk/justgiving**.



Workplace raffle or lottery:

This must be organised at work, for your colleagues only:

- Only people at your workplace can buy tickets.
- Tickets may only be sold in-person at a single location.
- To be promoted wholly for purposes that are not for private or commercial gain i.e. to raise money for charity.
- You may not deduct more than £100 of reasonable expenses.

For futher guidance on making your fundraising successful, safe and legal please see the fundraising guide on our website hdh.org.uk/resources.

Thank you for your support.

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Registered charity number 1085951

Helen & Douglas House
your local children's hospice