

## MEMORANDUM PRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE &amp; CUSTOMS

## REQUISITIONING OF LOTTO OFFICE

On the death or retirement of a Lotto Receiver, the Department of Public Lotto is inevitably faced with the difficulty of retaining for the succeeding new Lotto receiver the premises used as a Lotto office by the previous receiver. Landlords either refuse outright to let such premises afresh to the newly appointed receiver or else ask for high or prohibitive increases in rent. The delay in settling the matter or as often happens the final loss to the Department of the relative premises obviously disrupts a service to which patrons are accustomed, affects the sales of Lotto tickets to the public and results in a loss to public revenue as only a small percentage of the lost sales are picked up by other Lotto Offices in the neighbourhood. As it is difficult to find alternative premises in centrally placed areas, it usually takes much too long for sales to come up to anywhere near normal and a number of stakers is lost in the process.

From the administrative point of view, too, difficulties arise because, when one promotion is held up, the consequential promotion of several other lotto receivers is also held up with all the resultant resentment on the part of lotto receivers at the delay in getting what may be deserved and overdue promotions.

To overcome these difficulties the Ministry of Finance has asked the Housing Department to help by requisitioning Lotto offices as and when the need arises as it is felt that this is the only way of ensuring that the relative premises remain available as such. Requests for requisitioning, however, are meeting with delay. In fact, out of five requests made between March and June of this year only one has been met.

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This is having a bad effect on revenue. In the interests thereof, Ministers may wish to agree that Lotto Office premises should be requisitioned without delay upon request by the Director of Public Lotto.

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