

Raffles, Lotteries & Auctions Information (2023)

Raffles, lotteries, and auctions are great ways to raise extra money at your fundraising event, however they fall under strict gambling laws and regulations, so it's important you're aware of these before you start advertising or selling any tickets. For every raffle, lottery or auction, the promoter (i.e., the main fundraiser) is responsible for running it legally, and are responsible for anyone that sells on their behalf including making sure they're aware of the law.

Raffles

Raffles are deemed a form of lottery and gambling by the Gambling Commission (under the Gambling Act 2005) and can require a licence and/or permission from your local authority depending on how they're run.

If you hold a raffle (or tombola) as part of an event it is considered an 'incidental lottery'. You do not need a licence and/or permission from your local authority as long as all tickets are sold at the location of the event while the event is taking place and the draw takes place during the event. However, you will need to get permission from the owner of the venue/land where you are running the raffle. If your event takes place across multiple days (i.e., a weekend), you can sell tickets on each day without a licence. The raffle cannot be the main reason for holding the event.

You must provide physical tickets to those taking part. As long as you can identify the winning tickets, you do not need to have anything specific printed on the tickets so you could, for example, use cloakroom tickets. While you will need to draw the raffle during the event you can announce the winners after the event. If you do not draw the raffle at your event, you will need a licence and/or permission from your local authority. You can sell tickets for incidental lottery to children.

If you sell any tickets before your event, over a longer period, online (including social media), or at more than one venue, this is considered a 'small-society lottery' and you will need permission from your local authority and may need to purchase a local lottery licence from the Gambling Commission, both of which may involve a small fee. A small society lottery has a top limit of £20,000 in ticket sales, if you anticipate that your raffle may raise more than over £20,000, please let us know as soon as possible. This type of raffle allows you to sell tickets in advance and the draw can be advertised to the general public.

If the Gambling Commission advise they do not require you to hold a licence from them for a raffle prior to/separate from an event, you must still make sure your tickets adhere to the rules they set:

- Specific tickets will need to be printed for the raffle (you cannot use cloak room tickets).
- Tickets must show the name of the charity, the ticket price, the name and address of the organiser/promoter and the date of the draw.
- You will need a person to be registered as the promoter (i.e., the main fundraiser) who will be responsible for the lottery and what must be printed on all tickets. You cannot register under St Teresa's Hospice.
- To purchase or sell tickets, you must be 16 years or above.

Auctions

Auctions can be an easy way to fundraise at an event, especially as you do not need to be licenced as an auctioneer however it can be helpful to have one manage your auction or give some advice on how to get the most from it.

It's important to keep in mind that as auctions are a way of trading (buying goods or services), they are subject to consumer legislation, so you do need to provide clear and detailed information about your prizes/lots to your prospective buyers. Online auctions and auctions where participants aren't present for the bidding (silent auctions) are affected by other laws and regulations such as Distance Selling Regulations, more information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/online-and-distance-selling-for-businesses>.

If you're planning a charity auction, you can claim Gift Aid on anything above the retail value of the item that is being bid for. For example, if you auctioned off a weekend away for two with a retail price of £200 and it sells for £400, you can claim Gift Aid on the extra £200, raising £50. It's crucial to make clear to your bidders what the retail price is BEFORE they bid. The successful bidders will also need to complete auction gift aid forms, so if you're planning to run an auction, please contact us to discuss. Don't worry, we'll help you do any maths needed!

Online

You need a licence from the Gambling Commission to run an online lottery. This includes lotteries on social media, auction or selling sites, fundraising platforms, and live streaming platforms.

The only lotteries that can be advertised online are those run under a licence or registration with a local authority, or a lottery being run at a physical event with the tickets being sold at that event.

Other Things to Note

Rules for all of the above:

- The draw, bidding or opening of sealed bids must be witnessed and you should make a record of the results.
- All paid for valid tickets/bids must go in the draw.
- You must not make details of the winner's public without their permission.
- You must ensure you advise anyone you ask for a prize that you are fundraising in aid of St Teresa's Hospice not on behalf of. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide/support with obtaining prizes.

To apply for a licence from the Gambling Commission please go to:

<https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/service/apply-for-an-operating-licence>

If you are in any doubt about what (if any) licences you may need, please contact our Fundraising Team on 01325 254321 or email hello@darlingtonhospice.org.uk, or your local authority who will be able to provide you with advice and direction.

On behalf of all the patients and their loved ones, thank you for your fundraising.

St Teresa's Hospice
The Woodlands
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DL3 7UA

Registered Charity No: 518394

Please note, the above information was reviewed July 2023. All laws and regulations were correct as of July 2023 however may change subject to regulatory and legal changes outside of St Teresa's Hospice control.

St Teresa's Hospice is a registered charity (no: 518394) trading under the name 'Darlington & District Hospice Movement'. It is a limited company (no: 02080756) registered in England at The Woodlands, 91 Woodland Road, Darlington, DL3 7UA.