

Householders Are Gambling To Win £££s For Dream Home Improvements

More and more Brits have returned to the National and Euro Lottery in a desperate bid to outrun the cost-of-living crisis – but it's the government hitting the jackpot with more tax receipts.

Meanwhile, lots of people are also turning to other forms of gambling to try to make ends meet or to win enough for that dream home improvement.

With a one in 45 million chance of hitting the jackpot, the average consumer has more chance of being struck by lightning than winning the lottery.

The latest analysis from finance expert, RIFT, has shown that, as a nation, we're gambling more than ever as, with the National Lottery our preferred shot at an instant fortune. The taxman collects nearly a £billion pounds a year in National Lottery duty alone.



In the 2023-24 financial year, HMRC collected £3.389bn in tax receipts from betting and gaming. During the pandemic (2020-21), annual betting and gaming tax receipts fell by -6% in a year to £2.837bn, as lockdown restrictions reduced the opportunities available to have a flutter. However, since interest rates started to climb in December 2021, adding to the high cost of living endured by many households, this figure has been on the up as more of us pursue hopes of instant riches.

In 2021-22, total tax receipts from betting and gaming increased by 8.4% year on year, then by a further 7.4% in 2022-23. The latest annual increase of 2.6% in 2023-24 pushed annual betting and gaming tax receipts to the current total of £3.389bn – the highest total on record.

Of the £15.122bn gross gambling yield seen in the 2022-23 financial year, the National Lottery accounted for 23%, with just remote gambling via casinos proving more profitable for the gambling industry. [i](#)

Amazing GRACE To Hasten Learning

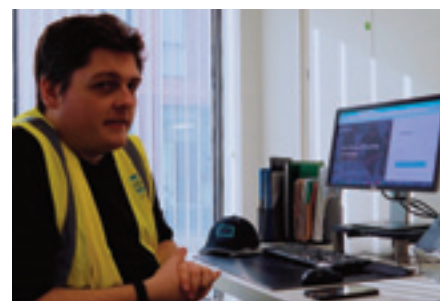
The GGF has launched an online training platform with an AI tutor at the helm – her name is GRACE. She is designed to amaze and maximise engagement.

GRACE is designed to help both organisations and individuals learn and then demonstrate and prove competencies across a range of skills and knowledge.

The platform forms part of a dynamic learning management system that will facilitate an ongoing log of training credentials, competencies and individual achievements.

The GGF has worked closely with Nucleus Learning, one of the UK's leading training software platforms, to develop the delivery of the courses. GRACE is an acronym for Glazing Resources And Career Education.

"Our end goal is not just to help organisations build safely but ultimately to leave a safe building," says Glass and Glazing Federation technical officer and training manager John Mannell. "There is such a complexity of different organisations working within industry accreditations and certifications



that it can sometimes be difficult to align expectations. We have taken out the guesswork and created a system that is not just a failsafe but empowers individuals and teams to progress proactively through their own learning journey." [i](#)



traders so collections could be booked alongside new product orders. Collected PVC-U was then consolidated at hubs and transferred to Eurocell's recycling facility. Samantha Wood, a corporate account manager at Biffa says: "Our collaboration with Eurocell is a prime example of how we can support closed-loop recycling that keeps valuable materials out of landfills and contributes to a greener future."

Since the trial began, the partnership has seen 195 collections deliver back 2,568 PVC-U frames – this equates to over 25 tonnes of PVC-U.

Sandra Gaspar, the head of recycling, at Eurocell says: "This has had a tremendous impact on our sustainability efforts, keeping our precious plastic feedstock out of landfill. This collaboration aligns with our commitment to a closed-loop recycling process."

The trial has been so successful that Eurocell and Biffa plan to expand the PVC-U collection service further by January 2025, extending the reach to more customers and locations. [i](#)

Biffa Helps Eurocell Bash Sustainability Targets

Eurocell has recognised the need to offer its trade customers a comprehensive recycling solution that will not only reduce waste but also enhance their own sustainability efforts.

With a long-standing commitment to sustainable practices, Eurocell aims to create a closed-loop recycling process that collects used PVC-U windows

and other products directly from customers, recycling it into new products for the construction and fenestration industries.

In February 2023, Eurocell and Biffa (the well-known waste collector) launched a trial of a domestic PVC-U collection service within a 30-mile radius of NE28 – this covers a large part of the North-East.

Eurocell worked with smaller

Top Guns – No Maverick Scores See Perfect Audit

Quickslide has received a perfect score during its latest audits for both PVC-U and aluminium products.

The detailed audit involved an extensive review of how Quickslide adheres to product standards and regulations, including a comprehensive factory walk-through to observe the procedures in place to ensure every product leaving the factory is compliant and top quality. From initial processing to final product inspection, the auditors left no stone unturned in assessing the fabricator's ability to deliver consistent quality.

Following the audits, Quick-

slide has once again been awarded its QCC mark. This highly regarded certification confirms the company's ongoing compliance with PAS 24 security standards and BS EN 14351-1 for PVC-U windows and doors, as well as ensuring that all aluminium products meet the same high standards under the UKCA Mark.

"The auditors do a thorough job," says Quickslide's quality manager Julian Fielden. "Observing everything from how we work to the quality of the finished products, as well as reviewing our processes and training records.



"We are continually improving our processes and embracing new technology, such as our new machining centre and scan stations. These have enabled us to automate the recording of relevant compliance information such as weld strength tests rather than relying on someone to manually check and record the information. In fact, our operators can't move forward in production unless everything meets the necessary standards. Compliance and quality are built into every step." [i](#)