

News



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Dianne Thompson wins European Women of Achievement Award

Dianne Thompson, Chief Executive of Camelot Group plc, the National Lottery operator, has won the Business category in the European Women of Achievement Awards 2006.

Dianne beat off strong competition from senior businesswomen across the European Union – including bankers, retail experts and investment managers.

The judges said they were impressed with Dianne's strategy for bucking the international trend of falling lottery sales, which has delivered the longest period of growth in the National Lottery's history.

The awards citation for Dianne said: "One of her most successful projects has been Camelot's pioneering of EuroMillions, a new mega-jackpot game bringing together 10 lotteries in 9 countries.

"She chairs the Childline Foundation fund-raising committee, and has committed to personally raising £1 million for the charity."

Dianne said: "The European Woman of Achievement Awards have a history of recognising some of the world's most inspirational women, and I feel honoured to be in their company.

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“But this award is not just for me – it’s for the remarkable team I have at Camelot who have helped to push annual sales over the £5 billion mark.”

Dianne joined Camelot in 1997 as Commercial Operations Director – the first woman Executive Director on the company’s board. She took over as Chief Executive in December 2000.

Dianne has driven a programme of innovation at Camelot which has helped to transform the company and drive lottery sales. Under her supervision the company has launched new games such as EuroMillions and Dream Number, and pioneered National Lottery sales on interactive platforms including www.national-lottery.co.uk, Sky Active and Play by Text on mobile phones.

Dianne is now leading Camelot’s bid for the third lottery licence. She said: “We’re aiming to submit a bid which really captures the public imagination and delivers the best return to the Good Causes.”

Dianne sits on the Press Complaints Commission and is a member of the CBI President’s Committee. In February 2006 she was appointed as a Non-Executive Director of Domino’s Pizza UK & IRL plc. She received a CBE for services to business in the 2006 New Year Honours.

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Notes to Editors:

- Camelot Group plc is the operator of The National Lottery® and is committed to raising money for the Good Causes designated by Parliament. Camelot is not responsible for distributing or awarding these funds
- To date, over £18.6 billion has been raised for Good Causes by The National Lottery, and more than 238,000 individual awards have been made across the UK – the biggest programme of civic and social regeneration since the 19th Century. The National Lottery has given away over £26 billion in prizes and created more than 1,900 millionaires or multi-millionaires since launch in 1994
- Camelot runs one of the most cost-efficient lotteries in the world, with around 5 per cent of total revenue taken in operating costs. At 40 per cent of total sales (28 per cent to Good Causes and 12 per cent in lottery duty to the Government), Camelot returns a higher proportion of lottery revenue back to society than any other lottery operator in the world. National Lottery retailers receive 5 per cent of total revenue in commission, and 50 per cent of sales is paid out to players in prizes
- Camelot is committed to the highest standards in player protection and social responsibility in both the retail and interactive environments. The National Lottery website, Sky Active and Play By Text services have been accredited by GamCare, the UK's national centre for information, advice and practical help regarding the social impact of gambling – while Camelot's approach to game design, test purchasing and retailer vigilance campaigns ensures player protection at retail. Camelot has been ranked among the top 30 UK companies in Business in the Community's 2005 Corporate Responsibility Index, becoming a sector leader in the leisure category
- For further information on Camelot, The National Lottery and its games, please visit the following websites: www.camelotgroup.co.uk and www.national-lottery.co.uk
- Players of all National Lottery games must be aged 16 or over.

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