

Local Hospice Lottery April 2026 Price & Prize Fund Changes FAQs



**The Country's Leading
Lottery for Hospices**

Most of us will have heard about the financial challenges being faced by hospices across the Country. Whilst it has always been incredibly important to support their essential work, it's more crucial now than ever before. With the ongoing help of fantastic lottery players like you, we are committed to raising as much as we can for them!

Working with our hospice partners, staff and players, we believe the time is right to make a small increase in the cost to play the Lottery. Despite making this increase as minimal and affordable as possible for each individual player, cumulatively it will still have a significant impact on the overall amount we are able to raise for hospice care.

Hopefully this interactive document will answer any questions you might have about the changes that will be coming into effect from 1st April 2026. If not, please feel free to contact our friendly team on Freephone 0800 316 0645, or via email at info@localhospicelottery.org.

THANK YOU!

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General FAQs

Why have you chosen to increase the cost of the Lottery?

Most of us will have seen news coverage over recent months about the financial challenges being faced by so many adult and children's hospices across the Country. So, whilst it has always been incredibly important to support the essential work of our hospices, it is inevitably more crucial now than it ever has been before.

Income from the Local Hospice Lottery continues to be one of the few regular and sustainable income streams that our hospices can rely on receiving each and every month, and with our fantastic lottery players, we are committed to raising as much as we can for them. With all of this in mind, and with the input from our hospice partners, staff and players, we felt that the time was right to increase the cost to play. Despite making this increase as minimal and affordable for each individual player as possible (just £1 extra per month, per game number), cumulatively it will still have a significant impact on the overall amount we are able to raise for hospice care!

Does my hospice know that Local Hospice Lottery is doing this?

Absolutely. We have worked closely with all of our partner hospices throughout the planning and implementation process of this change and, as you can imagine, they are extremely grateful for the extra money it will raise for them over the coming years!

How much is it to play the Local Hospice Lottery now (from 1st April 2026)?

One chance in Local Hospice Lottery's weekly draw still costs just £1 and players can increase their odds of winning by buying more than one chance if they wish. As long as they are aged 18 or over, and reside in Great Britain, anyone can take part and have a chance to win as they help their local hospice to keep on caring.

A subscription costs as little as £6 every month (per game number), and people can also choose to pay £18 quarterly, £36 half yearly or £72 annually if they prefer.

In all cases, the cost to play the Lottery adds up to £72 per year and this new and improved price structure means that, for every game number, as well as guaranteeing entry into every weekly draw, players will also receive up to 20 additional entries annually (i.e. $52+20=72$).

Continued overleaf

These extra chances will be split between the annual Super Draws (taking place every March, June, September and December), meaning players will automatically receive up to five additional chances to win £10,000 four times a year! Further details about this can be found on the Local Hospice Lottery website. The welcome packs provided to new players will also explain this further.

Direct Debit and Standing Order remain our preferred methods of payment because they help to keep administration costs to a minimum and reduce the chance of players missing a draw. Players can also choose to pay by Cheque or Debit Card should they prefer, but this may affect their ability to receive additional Super Draw entries.

Do I have to pay an extra £6 per month to take part?

No, the increase is just £1 per month (around 3p per day!), per game number. We are implementing an **increase to £6 per month** (per game number) from £5.

Why do I currently pay £4.34 and not £5?

Before January 2021, the cost to play the Local Hospice Lottery was £4.34 per month (still £1 per entry). It was £4.34 per month because some months contain five weeks and therefore five draws, and 12 payments of £4.34 equates to £52 over the course of the year. But depending on when a player joined, and how many weeks were in the following months, it was possible that they may not accumulate enough credit and would therefore miss a draw. For this reason, alongside the added benefit of receiving extra entries into the Christmas Super Draws, the cost to play was changed to £5 per month (per game number) in January 2021. However, some players who were taking part in the Lottery at this time did not upgrade to £5 and as such have remained at £4.34 per month (or equivalent).

Moving forward, as detailed above, the cost to play will be £6 per month (per game number) and £72 across the course of the year, giving players entry into each weekly draw plus up to an additional 5 chances in each of the four quarterly Super Draws.

What if I take part in a 'Keep the change' scheme for my chosen hospice?

If you currently pay £5 per month (per game number) with the residual 66p being passed to your chosen hospice as a donation, and you increase to £6, the additional £1 you will be paying will be used as extra chances in the quarterly Super Draws. Therefore, if paid in full across the calendar year, this will result in £12 of credit and you therefore having 3 extra chances in each of the four Super Draws. 66p will continue to be passed to your hospice as a donation as it was previously.

If hospices need the money so much, why are you paying out more money in prizes?

Lotteries continue to be the fundraising method of choice for so many supporters, because it gives them the opportunity to help regularly, whilst also having the chance to win some great cash prizes too. It's also an easy, fun and affordable way to help.

Local Hospice Lottery aims to strike the right balance between maximising the amount of money passed to hospice care with a player's odds of winning a prize. On average, we are able to give 68p in every £1 back to hospice care (significantly more than most other society lotteries!). And to put this into perspective further - only around 2p in every £1 goes towards generating the prize fund, which we couldn't operate a Lottery without obviously.

However, rest assured that the prize fund is fully covered by Local Hospice Lottery and as such there is no additional cost to your local hospice.

What is the difference between a Standing Order and a Direct Debit payment? Why are you treating them differently as part of this change?

A Standing Order is your instruction to your bank to pay money to Local Hospice Lottery on your behalf - for an agreed amount and at a regular, set frequency. We are not able to make changes to your Standing Order Payments on your behalf.

On the other hand, by completing a Direct Debit instruction, you are permitting Local Hospice Lottery to claim monies from your bank, on the date and frequency stipulated, and subject to the protection of the Direct Debit Guarantee. We are therefore able to change your Direct Debit payments, with your prior knowledge, on your behalf.

How much will my hospice receive from the increased payment?

Between 60% and 80% of profits from each £1, in line with Local Hospice Lottery's contractual agreements with its hospice partners and as detailed on our website and in our terms & conditions, will be passed to your local hospice. On average Local Hospice Lottery gives 68p in every £1 back to hospice care (significantly more than most other society lotteries!) and the more people that play - the more your hospice will receive every month! This small increase of just £1 per month to each of us individually will add up to make a huge combined difference to the amount of money generated for local hospice care. **In fact, we're estimating that the impact could be as much as an INCREDIBLE £7 MILLION extra being raised for hospice care across the Country over the next four years alone!**

You can find out more about exactly how much we aim to raise for each of our individual hospice partners on our website, www.localhospicelottery.org.

What are my odds of winning?

With exciting changes to our prize fund from April 2026, the likelihood of our players winning a prize is increasing. Based on estimated draw-entry numbers in 2026/27, the likelihood of winning a prize in the weekly draw is, on average, 1 in 1,063. Similarly, for the June, September, December and March Super Draws the likelihood of winning a prize is estimated at 1 in 4,715. Information about the most current estimated odds of winning can always be found on our website at www.localhospicelottery.org/prizes-and-odds-ofwinning/ or provided on request.

How do I find out if I have won?

The draw results will continue to be published every week on Local Hospice Lottery's website, and on Facebook and Instagram too. We, or the hospice you play in support of, will automatically contact players winning a prize of £1,000 or more, by phone if we are able, to give them the exciting news and check that their address is still correct on our database before we send the prize cheque to them. All prizes are posted automatically, so there's no need to worry about claiming prizes.

What if I leave the Lottery before the next Super Draw?

Any accumulated surplus credit will continue to be entered into each weekly draw until the credit runs out. You would not have additional chances in the Super Draw in this instance.

Will I still be in the Super Draws if I remain at my existing payment amount?

Yes. The Super Draws are an enhanced version of the regular weekly draw, with an additional £10,000 top prize added (and the rollover prize being held and guaranteed to be won at £1,000 for that week). So, as long as your regular game number(s) are in credit, you will enter the Super Draws as normal. However, your ability to receive up to five additional chances in the Super Draws (per game number) will be affected. If you remain paying at the £4.34 rate (£52 total per year) you won't get any additional chances in each Super Draw. If you remain paying at the £5 rate (£60 total per year) you will only get two additional chances in each Super Draw.

Will I always have the same Super Draw numbers as I've been sent?

No. We will be communicating with existing players and providing new Super Draw Numbers early in 2026. Any new players who sign up from the end of October 2025 will be provided with Super Draw Numbers relating to the new prize fund from April 2026.

How much will you give away in prize money each year after the change?

The annual prize money from next April onwards will increase by £93,200, to £393,600, with this being distributed to over 16,000 winners. The weekly prize fund will increase from the current weekly total of £5,200, to £6,800 from the first draw in April 2026 and an additional £10,000 Super Draw will be held in June each year.

How can £1 per month generate £7 million?

Because it's a small change to each of us individually, but together the combined positive impact for our hospices is huge! £7 million is the cumulative effect over the next four years if the number of players we hope will choose to take part in the change actually do so, combined with new players joining the Lottery at the new cost of £6.

How much does Local Hospice Lottery make out of the increase?

Through hospices working together in this innovative and collaborative way, lots of expenditure can be saved and more money can be generated for hospice care across Great Britain. This is the premise of our model. Between 60% - 80% of the profits from every £1 players spend will directly benefit their local hospice and families living local to them. Local Hospice Lottery Ltd covers the cost of the prize fund, but as a wholly owned subsidiary of Farleigh Hospice, any additional profit above and beyond what is passed to hospice partners, will be used to support hospice care through the work of Farleigh Hospice. So importantly, ALL PROFIT is spent on delivering essential hospice care!

Why have I received more than one letter? (being sent in January 2026)

Although we always try to minimise the costs associated in sending out multiple letters, some players may have multiple Direct Debit schedules (paying different amounts on different frequencies or dates) or may have multiple game numbers paid for by different methods. For this reason, we are obliged to send more than one letter.

Please be assured we do as much work as we can to minimise multiple letters being sent out to the same players.

I've been sent more than one Direct Debit letter. If I want to opt out of the Direct Debit increase for all my game numbers, do I need to return both opt-out slips?

Yes please. As mentioned above, some players may receive multiple letters. To ensure we accurately record your opt-out choice, we need both opt-out reply slips back (you can put both slips in just one of the return envelopes – thank you).

What's happening to my current 8 x Christmas Super Draw numbers?

The Super Draw numbers shown in your letter are replacing the 8 x Christmas Super Draw numbers you were sent for our previous Christmas Super Draw scheme.

This new quarterly Super Draw scheme (five x additional entries per quarterly super draw) replaces the previous Christmas Super Draw eight x entries scheme.

Direct Debit FAQs

Why am I automatically being opted in to this change? Are you allowed to increase my Direct Debit without my permission?

This change is being implemented in line with the Direct Debit Guarantee and we are writing to all of our players, well in advance of the change taking place on 1st April 2026, to explain the reasons behind the increase and enable them to opt out of the change if they wish.

What happens if I opt out of the change?

If you opt out of the change then the amount you pay will simply remain the same as it currently is. You will still benefit from the increased prize fund that is coming into effect in April, but you will not receive up to five additional chances in the four annual Super Draws. Unfortunately, your hospice also won't benefit from the proceeds raised by the additional £12 per game number annually if you opt out of the change.

What if I do not want to have extra chances in the Super Draws?

As a Direct Debit player, you need to return the response form we'll be sending to all existing players in January 2026, opting out of the increase. We will then mark your record and process your participation accordingly in the future.

I hold two (or more) weekly chances, but I now only want to have one – how do I change?

We can amend your Direct Debit amount, and your lottery record, to reflect this change for you. Please contact us to let us know which of your game numbers you would like to keep.

How can I cancel my Direct Debit?

We (Local Hospice Lottery) can cancel it for you, although it is always recommended that you notify your bank as well.

Will the date my payment is taken change as well as the amount?

No, only the amount will change. The day of the month your payment is taken will remain the same and your Direct Debit (and the reference you see on your statement) will continue to be processed on your selected date, as previously.

Standing Order FAQs (including Standing Order + Direct Debit (combinations))

I want to take part with my Standing Order payment – how do I do this?

As per the information detailed on the letter we will be sending to all existing players in January, people can contact their bank and instruct them to increase the existing Standing Order payment to cover the new amount. If you have on-line banking, you can increase your existing payment easily. You do not need to let us know as this will automatically update on our payment records.

I pay all my bills on the last day of the month – can I change my payment date to the last day of the month?

You can request this change from your bank for your Standing Order, although 28th of the month is often the last day they will accommodate - being common to ALL months.

If I do not make the change now, can I do so later, and if so how?

Yes, you can make the change at any time. However, in order to increase your chances from the first Super Draw in June 2026 you will need to make the change before 1st April 2026.

Can I leave my Standing Order as it is and set up a Direct Debit for the difference?

Unfortunately not. The costs associated with administering such a small Direct Debit payment would negatively impact the amount we are able to raise for hospice care, plus the lottery software is unable to accommodate this mixed payment method.

Why am I currently paying by both Direct Debit and Standing Order?

Your game numbers were set up at different points in the past. Historically, Standing Order mandates were our regular payment option, but this option has changed in recent years to Direct Debit. You therefore currently pay by both methods, for different numbers.

So if I do nothing and I pay by both Standing Order and Direct Debit, some of my numbers will be included in the change and some won't?

If you do nothing, the game number(s) paid for by Direct Debit will be included in the increase. However, the game number(s) paid for by Standing Order will not be included in the change unless you take action and increase the payment yourself, as per the letter we've sent you.

If I pay by both Direct Debit AND Standing Order, is this now another/ third payment?

No, the number of payments remains as is, but the amounts may be adjusted - all in accordance with your choices and response to the letter we've sent you.

Recurring Card FAQs

How are you allowed to increase my Recurring Card payments without me authorising it and notifying the bank?

We are writing to players well in advance of the change taking place to allow them the opportunity to consider the increase and to opt out of it if they wish and continue as they are. The decision is very much with the player as to whether they wish to take part in the increase or not.

Can I change to Direct Debit? If so how?

Absolutely. We can cancel your recurring card payment and set you up with a Direct Debit instead. Simply contact our team on our freephone number to arrange this.

My Debit card expires soon, will the payments come from my new card thereafter?

Only if you let us know. Please advise us of your new card details and we will update these with our payment provider.

Cheque payment FAQs

I want to take part in the change, but I can't/won't pay by Direct Debit. Can I just increase the cheque payment to take part? If not, why not?

Our preferred method of payment is Direct Debit as this is cheaper and easier to administer. However, players who pay by cheque for a full year's subscription of £72 in advance will have extra entries in the four Super Draws. Please note we are only able to accept a full year's subscription if you wish to take part.

Cash payment FAQs

Can I pay by cash?

No, unfortunately not. The option to pay for the Lottery with cash is no longer available and anyone wishing to play and take part needs to do so paying by Direct Debit or recurring Debit Card.

I do not have a bank account but I wish to take part

Unfortunately, as we can no longer process cash payments, you can only pay by Direct Debit or Debit Card payment – both of which require a bank account obviously.

Payroll FAQs

I want to take part with my current Payroll payment

As per the information detailed on the letter we will be sending to all existing players, people can contact their employer or payroll scheme administrator and instruct them to increase the existing payroll payment to cover the new amount. You do not need to let us know as this will automatically update on our payment records.



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