



Northern Territory Government

Department of Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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SCOTT LANYON Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

WARNING OVER SPANISH LOTTERY

Northern Territory residents are urged to avoid responding to a lottery scam currently circulating across the NT.

El Gordo Lotteries, which appears to originate in Spain, is targeting Territorians through direct mail to advise they had "won" the major prize in their lottery draw.

If a recipient replies via mail or telephone, El Gordo representatives claim a "release fee" must be paid for the major prize funds to be deposited into the winner's account.

The release fee is often around \$2500 AUD. Once a recipient deposits that amount in the El Gordo account, all contact with them is terminated.

"It's a blatant scam," Commissioner Scott Lanyon said today.

"We are working with interstate counterparts in an attempt to stop this bulk mail coming into the NT. In the meantime, I urge all recipients to dispose of any mail from either El Gordo or any other lottery-type mail out."

Mr Lanyon said it was impossible to win a lottery without even entering.

"The truth is, the lottery does not even exist," he said.

"Our advice to businesses and individuals is to remain vigilant and to never provide credit or personal details unless you are 100 per cent sure of who you are in contact with."

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