

Rapist 'claimed £2.5m lottery win using fake ticket'

David Brown, Francis Elliott, Paola Tamma

A convicted rapist "more likely than not" used a fake ticket to claim a £2.5 million National Lottery jackpot, the gambling regulator has ruled.

Edward Putman, 51, is alleged to have plotted with a corrupt security official at Camelot, the lottery operator, to secure the win days before the deadline to claim the jackpot. It is the most serious allegation of cheating in its 22-year history.

He was arrested in October last year on suspicion of fraud by false representation, although the investigation was dropped because of a lack of sufficient evidence for a prosecution.

However, the Gambling Commission ruled yesterday that it was "more likely than not" that a fraudulent win had been paid and it fined Camelot £3 million for **failing to provide controls to prevent fraud.**

Mr Putman's win in 2009 was revealed three years later when he was jailed for nine months after admitting that he fraudulently claimed £13,000 in housing benefit and income support.

Judge Andrew Bright said that Mr Putman was "motivated by sheer greed" when he asked for his benefits to be reinstated following the lottery win. He was caught when he tried to use cash to buy his £83,000 council flat in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

It later emerged that he had been jailed in 1993 for raping a 17-year-old woman twice. His former partner also accuse him of assault.

The allegedly fraudulent win was not discovered until last year following the death of the Camelot security official in a suspected suicide. The investigation centered on the draw of March 11, 2009, with a jackpot of £2,525,485, which was won by a ticket sold in Worcestershire. The prize was claimed only days before the deadline of September 7, 2009.

A Camelot official responsible for checking the validity of Mr Putman's ticket at her company's headquarters in Watford, Hertfordshire, is suspected of bypassing security checks. It is believed that the ticket was damaged.

The jackpot was paid into Mr Putman's account with St James's Bank, which is recommended by Camelot for lottery winners, on September 10, 2009. The ticket concerned can no longer be found, which was a factor in the earlier police inquiry collapsing.

Tom Watson, the shadow culture secretary, called for an urgent statement by the government on what he described as **"the great Lotto robbery"**.

He said: "Camelot has **very serious questions to answer about this fraud, which should never have been allowed to take place.**"

After his win Mr. Putman bought a detached house in Kings Langley for £466,000 as well as surrounding properties and land. He did not respond to request for comment yesterday.

Andy Duncan, the Camelot chief executive, said: “ We accept that, at the time, there were some weaknesses in some of the specific controls relevant to this incident and we’re very sorry for that.” He refused to comment when asked whether the alleged fraud was an ‘inside job”, saying that the police investigation could be reopened. The company said in statement that it believed that the fraud was unique. It is considering civil action to secure the return of the disputed winnings.

The Gambling Commission ruled that Camelot breached the terms of its operating licence over control of its databases, the way it investigated prize claims and its processes “around the decision to pay a prize”.

The fine will be taken from its profits and includes £2.5 million to be given to good causes.

The Times, Monday December 19 2016, page 17

‘Lottery fraud drove IT worker to suicide’

Gorgie Keate

The man who allegedly helped a convicted rapist win £2.5 million **with a fake Lotto ticket** killed himself over fears he would be exposed, it has been claimed.

Giles Knibbs, 38, committed suicide in October last year after allegedly passing Edward Putman, 51, details of the jackpot’s winning numbers in 2009. His family have called for a new police investigation to make Putman “squirm”.

Putman, who was convicted of raping a 17-year-old girl twice in 1993, was arrested last October on suspicion of fraud by **false representation** but the investigation was dropped in February owing to a lack of evidence.

It had been claimed that Mr Knibbs, an IT specialist working in the fraud department of the lottery operator Camelot, **passed Putman the details of a missing ticket** that would win a £2,5 million jackpot.

Despite the investigation against Putman being dropped, the Gambling Commission ruled on Friday that it was “more likely than not” that Camelot had paid out on a fraudulent win and fined the company £3 million.

A friend of Mr Knibbs’s family told the Sunday Mirror “Were pleased this is public now. Anything that makes Eddie squirm is good and we’re hoping the police will open investigations again and re-evaluate the situation.”

“The pair met when Putman refitted Mr Knibbs’s kitchen friends claimed. Putman spent four years in jail for rape and was imprisoned again in 2009 when he admitted fraudulently claiming £13,000 in housing benefit and income support.

At the weekend, neighbours said that Putman had fled his £800,000 home in Langley, Hertfordshire. A friend of Mr Knibbs told the Sun on Sunday that **the Camelot employee had been able to see the winning number from an unclaimed ticket and locate where and when it had been bought. It has been claimed he was then able to doctor a ticket so that it displayed the winning numbers to claim the £2.5 million jackpot.**

It is thought the police investigation into Putman broke down when it transpired Camelot had lost the ticket.

Andy Duncan, chief executive of Camelot, has hinted that a police investigation could reopen but has not commented on whether the alleged fraud was an inside job.

Last night Hertfordshire police said there was no further update on whether the force would open another investigation into Putman.

*Ref.: Rapist 'claimed £2.5m lottery win using fake ticket'.docx
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1 Edward Putman was jailed for rape in 1993.

He is alleged to have conspired with a corrupt official at Camelot to win the jackpot

The Telegraph

Exclusive: Rapist accused of using fake Lottery ticket to claim £2.5m jackpot

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/16/exclusive-convicted-rapist-accused-using-fake-lottery-ticket/>

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