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NEWS RELEASE

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Congratulations – You’ve won a £3 million lottery jackpot! What’s the first thing you do next?

- More than one in ten (12%) married people would not tell their spouse about their win
- Half of all workers would quit their job and more than a fifth (22%) would change career
- Fewer than one in 10 would consult a financial adviser to support decision-making

You’ve finally won a life-changing sum of money after years of playing the lottery and crossing your fingers – but what would you do after getting the big pay-day?

Ahead of the National Lottery’s 25th birthday (Tuesday 19 November), we asked 2,000 people who they would break the news to if they won a £3 million jackpot and found many were surprisingly secretive, with more than one in 10 (11%) saying that they would not tell anybody about their success.

When it comes to their nearest and dearest, 12% of married people said that they would not tell their husband or wife. Over three-quarters (77%) of all adults would also hide the news from their friends while only a tiny sliver of the population (0.3%) said that they would want to share the news of their win with the press.

“Millions of people in the UK enter the lottery each week in the hope of winning the jackpot that will set them up for life,” said **Stephen Lowe**, group **communications director** at **Just Group**, “our research shows that if they did win, many would keep their success a closely guarded secret.

“As a nation, we tend not to be the best at talking about our finances and it appears this even translates to jackpot joy. Even if it is tricky, it is important to have conversations about money, particularly within couples, to strengthen relationships and to help plan for the future.

“On a more fundamental level, the survey also poses the question of how people think they would be able to keep £3 million a secret from their partner!”

People’s anticipated response to winning the lottery gives us a glimpse into how people feel about working. Almost half of all workers (49%) stated that they would quit their job, rising to two-thirds (64%) of those over 55. More than a fifth (22%) said they would carry on working but change career to try something different. Overall, only one in five of people would stay in their current job.

Less than one tenth (9%) of people said that they would consult a financial adviser if they won the jackpot, despite the invaluable support they can provide to clients faced with momentous financial decisions.

“Quitting your job or splashing out on major purchases could be life-changing decisions,” said **Stephen Lowe**. A huge lottery jackpot – or a big chunk of money from a pension when they reach that stage of life – may seem big enough to make impulsive purchases but there is a need for some consideration.

“Take stock of the situation, take time out to receive some professional financial advice as it could help to avoid a decision you might later regret. Receiving professional advice can help people to understand the options that are available to make any windfall grow and last – and to have the confidence to spend.”

Enquiries

Media

Stephen Lowe, Group Communications Director

Lucy Grubb, Head of Media & PR

Telephone: +44 (0) 1737 827 301
press.office@wearejust.co.uk

Temple Bar Advisory

Alex Child-Villiers
William Barker
Sam Livingstone

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7002 1080

Notes to Editors:

Research

Just Group commissioned this Opinium Research which surveyed 2,000 UK adults (aged 18+) in July 2019.

About Just

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