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WHY LOTTO WIN CAN MAKE YOU MISERABLE

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SCIENTISTS claim to have discovered why winning a fortune on the lottery does not always mean instant happiness.

They carried out experiments that indicated winning or inheriting cash does not have the same effect on the brain as earning money through effort.

In the study, 16 volunteers had their brains wired up to an MRI scanner.

On a computer screen in front of them was a money bag with dollar bills floating around it. They were told that whatever cash dropped into the bag they could keep.

Some notes fell into the bag but when the volunteers used buttons to increase their reward, their striatum the part of the brain linked with reward processing reacted more strongly.

“One interpretation is that it is more rewarding to earn money than to simply be given money,” said Dr Caroline Zink of the department of psychiatry at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

“But a second interpretation, which I favour, is that earned money is more important to the subject compared to ‘passive’ money.”

A total of 185 Scots have become millionaires after buying tickets for the lottery since it began nine years ago, winning a total of £800 million.

Scotland's top single winner to date is Sheila Wilson of Fife who scooped just over £11 million in 2001.

Previously the biggest winner was John McGuinness of Bothwell, Lanarkshire, who won £10 million in 1996.

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