



Meeting of the COVID-19 Ministerial Group

Minute of Decision

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Amendments to Gambling Act 2003 to Mitigate Impact of COVID-19 on Class 3 Operators

The group of Ministers with Power to Act on COVID-19 matters [CAB-20-MIN 0130] convened on 16 April 2020 at 10.30am, and in accordance with their Power to Act:

- 1 **agreed** to amend the Gambling Act 2003 to allow ^{9(2)(f)(iv)} [REDACTED] to operate remote interactive gambling but only to the extent they can:
 - 1.1 send and receive order forms for lotteries by email or by phone;
 - 1.2 take payments online or by phone; and
 - 1.3 send tickets by email;
- 2 **noted** that this is a fast-tracked amendment as part of the current online gambling review;
- 3 **noted** that:
 - 3.1 the Class 3 operators named in paragraph 1 above (the named Class 3 operators) can only sell lottery tickets online or by phone;
 - 3.2 other types of Class 3 gambling, such as housie and scratch cards, will be excluded;
 - 3.3 the amendment will apply only for a period of 18 months;
- 4 **agreed** that the named Class 3 operators will not be allowed to advertise more widely than they are currently permitted to under existing licensing conditions;
- 5 **noted** that additional requirements will be placed on the named Class 3 operators in as part of their licensing conditions, to ensure appropriate harm minimisation requirements are in place;
- 6 **noted** that there is only a low risk associated with this type of gambling, and that this is because of the lack of continuous play that is known to be harmful;

- 7 **noted** that significant public consultation was undertaken on this issue last year as part of the wider online gambling review, and that there was overwhelming support for this change to be implemented.

Rachel Hayward
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Distribution:

The Cabinet
Hon James Shaw

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