

The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) Bill- Consultation Response Volunteer Now

Q6. Do you think that the Bill will meet its overall policy objectives?

YES.

We do not have any objections, especially with reforming societies' lotteries. This would be very important for fundraising purposes. In fact, most participants at the DFC consultation on the regulation of gambling in January 2020 do not view purchasing a raffle ticket as gambling, rather a positive act to support a good cause.

Q7. Do you foresee any unintended consequences of any of the policy objectives of the Bill?

OTHER.

With respect to societies' lotteries, we would worry if there aren't amendments to rules for lotteries reflected in secondary legislation.

Q18. Clause 8.

YES.

Logical amendment to the definition of lottery.

Q19. Clause 9,

YES.

Current rules limit the ability of charities, sports clubs to fundraise, so we think this amendment is timely and hugely beneficial. We think a society should be permitted to set its own ticket prices and an appropriate and acceptable charge would be determined. If too high, people wouldn't purchase- if too low, it could present challenges to fundraise.

It is important to mention that NI societies are disadvantaged when compared with GB as NI societies have to deal with a cap on ticket prices, as well as caps to generated income and prizes. Secondary legislation should act to remove such caps.

Q20. Q20 - Clause 9 will also amend Article 137 of the 1985 Order to alter the limit on the amount which may be appropriated for the expenses of a society lottery to 20% of the whole proceeds. Do you feel that this is an appropriate limit?

YES.

Q21. Clause 10.

YES

Q22. Clause 10: Do you feel that it is appropriate to remove the residency restrictions?

YES.

As mentioned earlier, NI societies are at a disadvantage. If remove residency restrictions means GB can promote their lotteries in NI, it is crucial that criteria are consistent and standardised.