EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Lotteries (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

SR 2021 No. 232

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Communities to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and is not subject to any formal procedure by the Assembly.

2. Purpose

2.1. Under this Statutory Rule the Department has amended the Regulations to allow for the sale of a lottery ticket or chance by means of the internet.

3. Background

3.1. The Order removes the prohibition on the sale of society lottery tickets by way of internet.

3.2. In removing this prohibition, this will enable small local voluntary groups and clubs to raise vital funds by selling their tickers online.

4. Consultation

4.1. The Department consulted on the sale of society lottery as part of the gambling regulation consultation conducted in 2021. There was overwhelming support for the prohibition on the sale of society lottery tickets by way of internet to be removed. Over two-thirds (67%) of respondents to the consultation agreed that prohibition should be removed.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. In accordance with its duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the Department has conducted a screening exercise before removing the prohibition on the sale of society lottery tickets by way of internet. The Equality Impact Assessment can be viewed at www.communities-ni.gov.uk.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. These Regulations do not require a regulatory impact assessment as they do not impose costs on businesses, charities or voluntary groups.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. There are no financial implications associated with these Regulations.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. The Department has considered section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and is satisfied that the Statutory Rule is not incompatable with the convention rights, is not incompatable with community law, does not

discriminate against a person or class of person on the grounds of religious belief or political opinion and does not modify an enactment in breach of section 7 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. These Regulations do not replicate any corresponding legislation in Great Britain.

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.