

QUESTION TIME BRIEFS @ 7 DECEMBER 2023

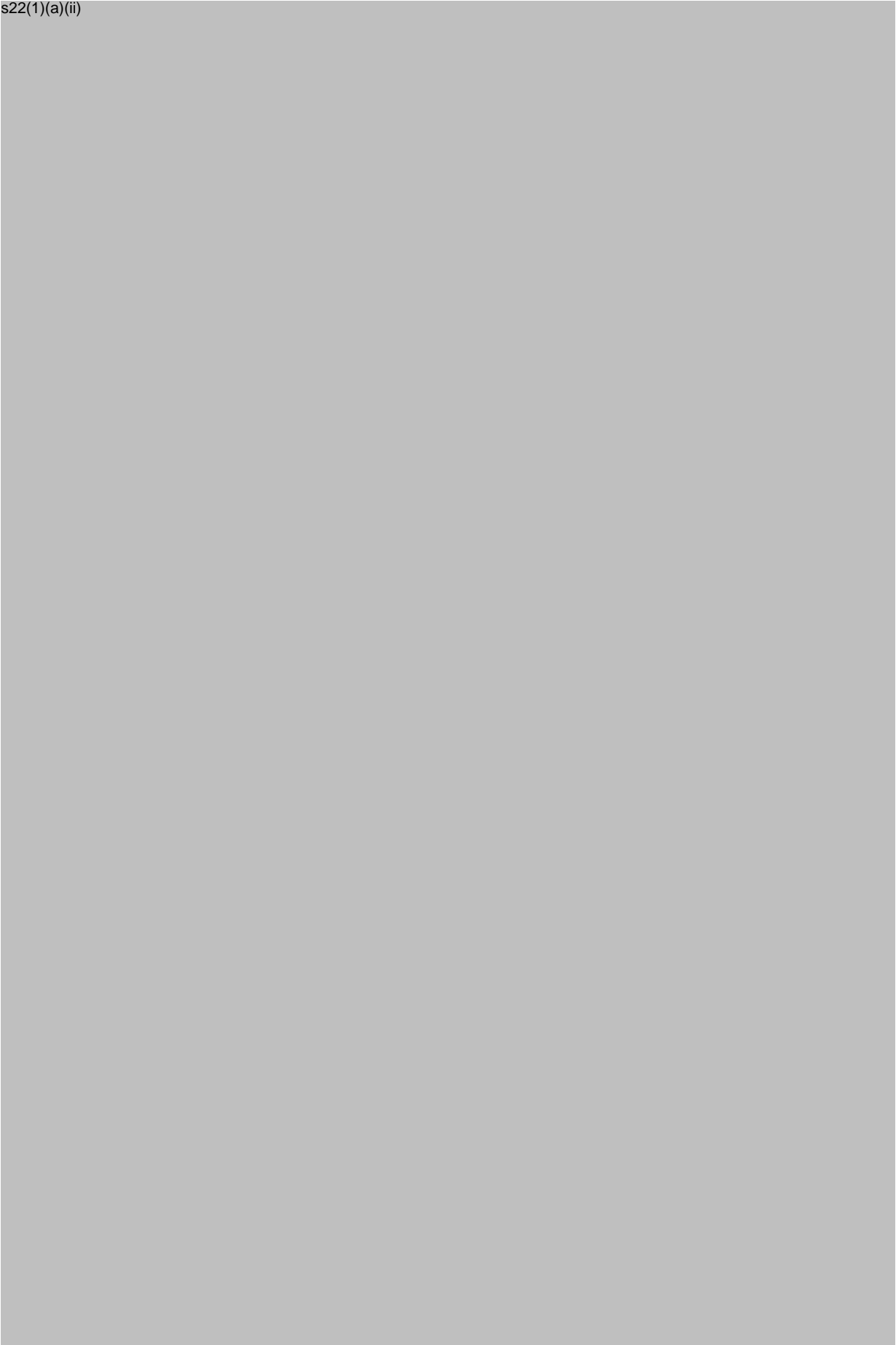
Minister Michelle Rowland

PDR No	Subject	Responsible Area
QB23-000096	Australia Post - Overarching	DIV - Communications Services and Consumer
QB23-000829	GAMBLING - Overarching	DIV - Online Safety Media and Platforms

QB23-000096

AUSTRALIA POST: OVERARCHING

s22(1)(a)(ii)



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QB23-000096

Pages 2 – 17 irrelevant material

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QB23-000096

s22(1)(a)(ii)



If asked: Why were services to Israel suspended and what is the Government doing about it?

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Australia Post advise that they temporarily suspended services to Israel due to the impact of the current security situation on inbound and outbound flight capacity.

Mail is generally carried onboard passenger flights, and flights into Israel have reduced by 80 per cent as a result of the current security situation.

The suspension was communicated to Israeli government officials as soon as it occurred, and Australia Post has been working hard to secure alternative capacity to resume services. I am pleased to inform the house that Australia Post has secured alternative freight capacity and have advised customers that services have now resumed from today (7 December).

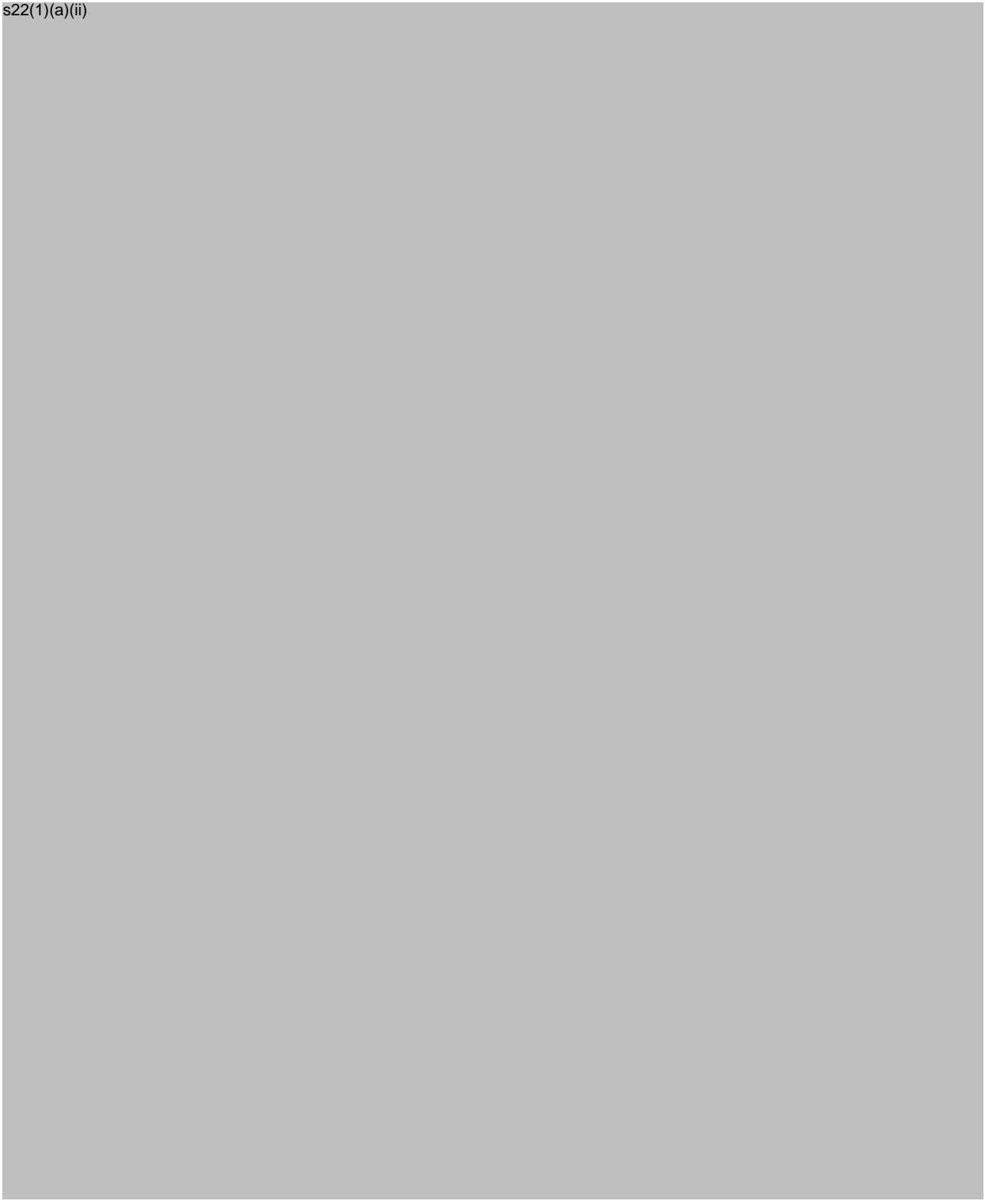
The security situation is obviously evolving and Australia Post will continue to monitor the situation and keep customers and the community informed of any further developments.

s22(1)(a)(ii)



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s22(1)(a)(ii)




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GAMBLING - OVERARCHING


QUESTION: Will the Government proceed with a ban on gambling advertising as per the House Committee report?

Like many Australians, we are concerned about the extent of gambling ads and their impacts, which is one of the reasons we established the House of Representatives Inquiry into online gambling and its impact on those experiencing gambling harm – chaired by the late, formidable Peta Murphy.


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s22(1)(a)(ii)



Department has met with a broad range of stakeholders, including broadcasters, sporting codes and digital platforms, and I have met with a number of harm reduction advocates, public health experts and academics.

These stakeholders have shared with me their perspectives and expertise on the impact online gambling is having on young people, concerns over the saturation of gambling advertising, the close association even young children now have between wagering and live sport, and the shame and stigma felt by people who experience gambling harm.

I am very grateful for their time and advice because – our priority is to ensure we are driven by evidence that supports our harm minimisation objectives.


We know a harm minimisation approach in relation to advertising needs to consider the multiple channels over which advertising is delivered – including television, radio, streaming services, outdoor advertising, branding and social media.

While engagement with industry is important to ensure the regulation of gambling and gambling advertising can be effectively implemented, our overarching policy position in this work is harm reduction.

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I acknowledge the advocacy on these issues by many across the parliament but in particular the members for Goldstein, Mayo and Clark. I have been clear that the status quo of gambling advertising will not continue.

s22(1)(a)(ii)



QB23-000829

s22(1)(a)(ii)



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s22(1)(a)(ii)



QUESTION: Why didn't you support David Pocock's amendment to minimise the political influence of the online wagering industry?

Ultimately, Australians need to have confidence in their electoral system and the strength of their democracy.

I know many in the chamber are concerned with these matters, and appreciate the Senator's ongoing advocacy in this area.

However, I would note that there is active work underway on strengthening democracy across the Government.

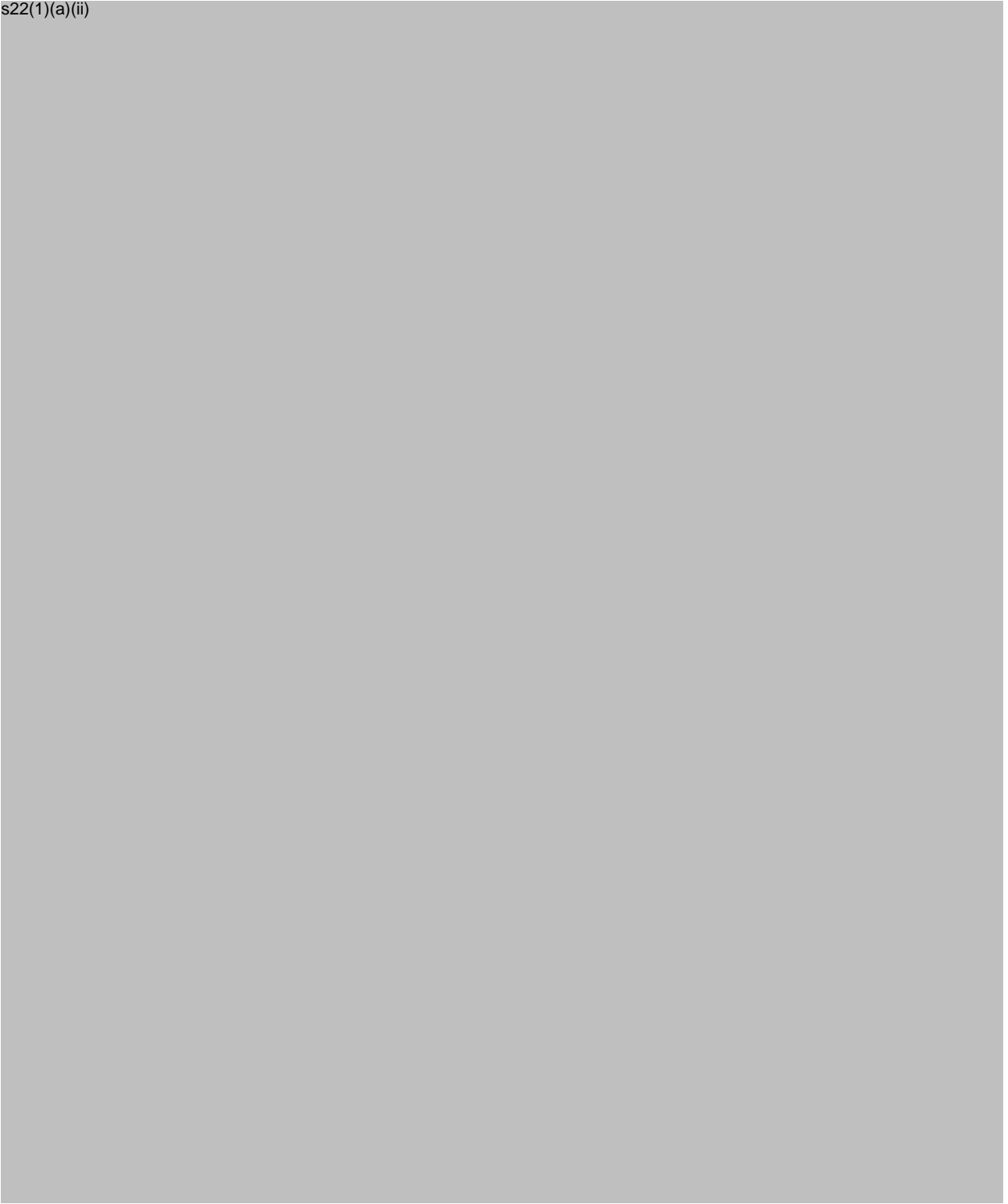
My colleague Minister Farrell is currently considering all recommendations from the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) report – including with respect to spending caps, updated disclosure rules, and truth-in-political advertising and will have more to say on that in due course.

The bill that passed the Senate yesterday focused banned the use of credit cards for online wagering. It's passage through the Senate today will mean

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stronger regulatory protections will be in place for vulnerable Australians by mid 2024. I appreciate the support from members to deliver this important protection for those at risk of gambling harm.

s22(1)(a)(ii)



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Pages 7 – 17 irrelevant material

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If asked about regulatory arrangements for online gambling (in light of the Guardian article on the Northern Territory Racing Commission which operates as the 'default' national gambling regulator, and linkages between Commissioners and the wagering industry)

Like many Australians, we are concerned about the impact of gambling harm, which is one of the reasons we established the House of Representatives Inquiry into online gambling and its impact on those experiencing gambling harm – chaired by the late, formidable Peta Murphy.

The Government received the final report of the inquiry at the end of June, which made 31 recommendations ranging from the need for consistent national consumer protections and improved research and data, reform of gambling advertising rules, and addressing illegal offshore gambling and simulated gambling games.

The Committee also made recommendations related to the regulatory arrangements for online gambling, including the establishment of a national regulator.

Since receiving the Committee's report, we have been consulting with key stakeholders on the impacts of the Committee's recommendations. This includes engaging with states and territories, who are responsible for licensing and regulating interactive gambling services permitted under the Interactive Gambling Act.

In February, my colleague the Minister for Social Services convened the first meeting of Ministers with responsibility for gambling since 2017, to discuss what comes next to address gambling harm. This forward plan is critical as we have now fully implemented the National Consumer Protection Framework for Online Wagering, with the launch of BetStop, the national self-exclusion register, in August this year. I'm also pleased to update the House that BetStop has already enabled over 13,000 individuals to self-exclude from online wagering.

As we consider the Committee's recommendations, and engage with key stakeholders, we are also progressing other elements of our harm

minimisation agenda. I welcomed the passage last night of legislation that prohibits the use of credit card in online wagering.

This is a long-overdue harm minimisation initiative that we announced we would be progressing April this year, and is now law.

I acknowledge the advocacy on gambling harm issues by many across the parliament but in particular the members for Goldstein, Mayo and Clark.

This Government is committed to reducing harms associated with online gambling and I, along with the Minister for Social Services, look forward to outlining our next tranche of reforms in due course.