

## Debrief: AR/HR meeting Irish Government

### Follow-up Meeting

Attendees	Minister James Browne; [REDACTED]
GC attendees	Andrew Rhodes, [REDACTED]
Date	28 September 2022
Time	09.00 – 13.00
Venue	In person, invite from Department of Justice to share learning on roles/powers of a regulator

### Agenda

Minister welcomed GC's visit and welcomed all the input and lessons we could offer as they progress on their journey, noted they have made some appointments and got some budget agreed, **next stage is legislation** which will always be pressured but general principle is to stay flexible/enabling, but aware they may get drawn into some political wishlists. AR/ [REDACTED] offered our lessons, 15 years from 2005 Act and taking on online from 2014, that flexibility has been key as things change in the sector and the Department will likely want the regulator to be nimble, with some obvious oversight designed in.

Minister said always **welcome learning from practice** as well as reading, noted personal insight from greyhound sector and how online has led to likes of races with no spectators, that public generally support sector from a leisure perspective so interested how that works in UK. AR said trends are similar, and try to track events that impact those like Covid, but likes of on-course bookmakers are challenged by move to online, has visited horse and greyhound courses and noted how it works with licenses for bookmakers where main audience is online. Discussed the risks from online, but that also opportunities around data which the GRA may want to invest in, that a number of novel/grey areas will emerge so best to be clear where policy is and how policy questions get resolved between regulator/Department and any other bodies in the Irish system, eg Finance department on crypto. All agreed alignment with financial regulation is invaluable – [REDACTED] noted how DoJ has lots of links with other regulatory bodies in Ireland so will make the most of that alignment.

Noted Irish political systems and importance of checks for Parliament but giving regulator main role in detail, that have a coalition currently and always likely to be busy at Committee stage so understood the dynamics that can bring – [REDACTED] noted will be interesting for us to see how that progresses and any insight/lessons we could get too. All noted benefits of engagement with international counterparts, including ongoing engagement at European level – [REDACTED] **noted already linked with GREF and eager to be involved**. AR noted some interesting differences, so new ideas and evaluations of how they have worked, but also recognise not homogenous so no-one pretending things will work the same across each area, and around likes of Licensing some benefits to keeping own distinct regimes anyway. All agreed benefits in principle of sharing eg on live risks and global issues like sports betting.

AR offered some background on GC regulating NL and how can help even to see the statistics across products.

Discussed issues around ADR and ensuring clarity for consumers, both on products but also role of regulator – **ACTION: [REDACTED] to send ADR stats, eg IBAS annual report**. AR noted benefits from our advisory groups and engaging with lived experience, in appropriate ways, also valuable.

Discussed a number of other areas and agreed happy to engage again when ideas getting more developed.

Minister departed.

[REDACTED]