



PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO. 35
Answered on 2 October 2026
Second Meeting 2026-2027 Session – Third Sitting

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION
ASKED BY

HON. KENNETH V. BRYAN
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, ELECTED MEMBER FOR THE
CONSTITUENCY OF GEORGE TOWN CENTRAL

TO

THE HONOURABLE PREMIER
MINISTER OF FINANCIAL SERVICES & COMMERCE

QUESTION:

Can the Honourable Premier provide a progress update and realistic implementation timelines for the two referendum questions passed during the last general election, specifically outlining the steps the Government intends to complete between now and the next General Election?

ANSWER:

Mister Speaker: the answer.

As a reminder, Cabinet directed both of these referendum questions to the Law Reform Commission for analysis and recommendations.

CANNABIS DECRIMINILISATION REFORM

Starting now with the referendum question related to cannabis, I thank the Member for the question.

I am currently advised that the Law Reform Commission's current timeline is as follows.

1. **July 2026:** the Commission published its Discussion Paper, **Cannabis Reform: Options for a Harm Minimisation Framework**, with a 1 September 2026 date to have receive submissions from the public on the subject.

2. **September 2026 to October 2026:** The Commission's legal and legislative team is now preparing the draft Final Report for the Commission's review. This work involves collating and analysing the 33 consultation submissions, received from individuals and organisations (and Government thanks them for their input); refining policy options; and formulating recommendations, including any recommendations for supporting legislation.
3. **November 2026 to December 2026:** During this timeframe the Commission will complete its deliberations on the draft Final Report, determine its recommendations, finalise any supporting legislation, and submit the final report to the Hon. Attorney General for Caucus/Cabinet's consideration.

NATIONAL LOTTERY REFORM

Turning to the referendum question related to an introduction of a national lottery, this is continuing at pace. The Law Reform Commission reminds us that this review is wide-ranging for two key reasons.

1. The review must consider not only whether a national lottery could be accommodated within the existing Cayman Islands legislative framework, but it also must consider the appropriate regulatory and operator model, governance and oversight, responsible-gambling safeguards, economic and fiscal considerations, anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing requirements, technology and security, procurement, transparency, data protection and the treatment of lottery proceeds.
2. Secondly, the Commission must consider the consequential amendments that may be required across a number of existing Cayman Islands laws.

As part of this work:

1. The Commission has identified a broad range of comparative legislative and regulatory models for examination.
 - a. The Scoping Paper presently identifies 13 comparator jurisdictions or models, including the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Bermuda, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand and Singapore.
 - b. The purpose of the comparative exercise is to assess which approaches may be suitable for our legal, social, economic and regulatory circumstances.
2. Furthermore, the Commission has developed a comprehensive stakeholder framework, to receive input from relevant Government ministries and agencies, financial and law-enforcement bodies, health and social-service providers, civil-society organisations, professional and business associations, retailers, prospective operators and international regulatory and industry bodies.

These stakeholders have diverse areas of expertise that will help ensure that any recommendations ultimately made to Government are properly informed and supported by appropriate evidence.

As with cannabis decriminalisation reform, the November 2026 to January 2027 timeframe for the Commission to analyse findings, complete internal deliberations and submit a draft

final report was indicative and subject to change, precisely because of the complexity of the project, the availability of specialist input and data, and the consultation period.

I am advised that the updated timeline is therefore as follows.

1. **September – December 2026:** The Commission's legal and legislative team will conclude its research and draft its discussion paper. This paper will consider legislative and oversight models, harm minimisation, AML/CFT (or anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing), economic issues, technology and security, transparency, and procurement.
2. **January – February 2027:** The Commission anticipates launching the initial eight-week public consultation on the discussion paper during this time.
3. **March – May 2027:** The Commission will analyse consultation submissions, refine policy options and recommendations, complete its deliberations, and prepare its Final Report, together with a draft National Lottery Bill and any consequential amendments.
4. **By the end of May 2027:** The Hon. Attorney General will submit the Final Report to Caucus/Cabinet for its consideration.

Given the breadth and intricacy of the subject, the Commission considers it important that the review be sufficiently thorough to provide Government with a sound and evidence-based basis on which to consider any future legislative and regulatory framework for a national lottery.

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