Exemption Direction 149: Question and Answer Guidance

What is the scope of the Exemption Direction?
This exemption Direction allows approved regulators to quickly make temporary changes to their rules and regulations that are connected or related to the coronavirus pandemic, without having to go through the LSB's full rule change process. It only applies to the rule changes covered by the circumstances set out in the direction.

When is the Exemption Direction valid and for how long?
The Exemption Direction is valid from 6 April 2020 and will remain in force until the LSB determines it is no longer necessary. We anticipate engaging with approved regulators well in advance of the date it will expire.

Why is the LSB issuing this Exemption Direction now?
In this unprecedented time, we are acting in order to provide sufficient flexibility for approved regulators to make appropriate and necessary temporary alterations to their regulatory arrangements at short notice. The LSB does not know how many regulators will need to make use of this exemption. However, it is a necessary precautionary and proactive measure to have the direction in place now, so that if or where temporary alterations are needed, they can be made swiftly.

How will approved regulators know that any given rule change is covered by this Exemption Direction?
As the Direction specifies, the approved regulator will need to inform the LSB at least 2 working days before they intend for the changes to come into effect, so that the LSB can confirm whether the proposed alteration is covered by the Direction. We have also informed the approved regulators separately that they must let the LSB know if they have any questions on the process or on whether the Direction applies to their particular changes.

What sort of alterations to rules and regulations might be covered by the exemption?

As this Direction could cover a wide range of temporary alterations to rules and regulations which may be necessary as a result of Coronavirus pandemic, and the situation is fast-moving, it has not been possible to provide illustrative examples. However, the exemption Direction is for temporary changes and so any changes will need to be time limited. Any permanent changes will be subject to the usual LSB approval process.