

21 March 2013

The Bingo Association welcomes the proposed amendment to the Betting and Gaming Duties Act 1981 as set out in the Budget 2013

Under the current terms of s. 20A of the Betting and Gaming Duties Act, 1981, (BGDA) the playing of Multiple Bingo is defined as “combined bingo” and sets out the taxation structure for this type of bingo game:

“Combined bingo” is bingo played at more than one place and promoted by more than one person. For example The National Game is promoted by the NBGA but is also promoted by individual participating operators around the country.

The National Bingo Game Association Limited (NBGA), a member of The Bingo Association, operates games of “Multiple Bingo” in Great Britain. The Gaming (Bingo) Act 1985 allowed the creation of “linked games” of bingo and the NBGA, which is a company limited by guarantee, (owned by its members who are bingo operators), has been running the National Game in Great Britain since 1985. The NBGA operates under a remote bingo operating licence issued by the Gambling Commission.

The effect of s. 20A of the Betting and Gaming Duties Act 1981 (BGDA) is that the NBGA is removed from liability to pay Bingo Duty (this is charged on the bingo promotion profits of the participating bingo club) on the condition that “the combined bingo is played entirely in the United Kingdom.”

The NBGA has discussed the removal of this geographical restriction with HMRC for a number of years and the Chief Executive, Miles Baron, today welcomed the opportunity to explore the possibilities of expanding the National Game’s business and to be able to provide its services to bingo clubs in other countries without attracting a significant additional tax burden which until now was an effective barrier to trade.

The amendment to the BGDA proposed in the Budget 2013 will allow the NBGA to run games of combined bingo both for bingo clubs within and outside the UK, while still complying with the other requirements of s.20A BGDA for tax purposes.