



**Press release - for immediate release**  
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**Award Winning Compliance:  
Cherry Hosking wins Compliance Officer of The Year  
At 2018 Global Regulatory Awards**

Cherry Hosking, Company Secretary of **The Bingo Association** won *Compliance Officer of The Year* at last night's Gambling Compliance Global Regulatory Awards, held at The Sheraton Grand, Park Lane, London.

The Award acknowledges an outstanding compliance professional that always goes beyond the call of duty and has embraced the compliance function within their organisation, implementing it effectively with enthusiasm and vigour. Judges were looking for an exemplary individual who pro-actively embraces the compliance function, and who reacts to regulatory developments positively in their role.

Following presentation of her Award Cherry Hosking, said, "I am delighted to have won the Award, particularly amongst such strong contenders in the category: while honored to have been nominated I didn't expect to win!"

"The breadth of work involved in managing the compliance function has substantially increased in recent years and is an issue impacting operators regardless of scale. I have found my role in leading and enabling both challenging and rewarding."

2017 was the first full year of the bingo industry's self-exclusion scheme, which launched in March 2016. The scheme has grown to become a robust and a powerful tool in the armory of Licensed Bingo Operators wishing to assist customers with any gambling related harm. The scheme is managed by Cherry on a daily basis, supporting over 100 operator companies who participate in the scheme. When not managing and perfecting the bingo self-exclusion scheme Cherry also manages Age Verification testing across the sector, advises members on LCCP changes and has also liaised on behalf of the Industry over the introduction of the new £1 coin and £5 & £10 bank notes: these roles are all in addition to being Company Secretary for two commercial subsidiaries of the Association.

The Bingo Association represents nearly 600 Licensed Bingo Operating premises and over 70 operating companies. It is a broad church with a mixture of the corporate and very independent: those with infrastructure and those with none.

Miles Baron, Chief Executive, **The Bingo Association** said:

"I am thrilled that Cherry's work and significant contribution to the industry been recognised by this Award: when things go well, people don't always notice and can take it for granted."

"From the Bingo Clubs to the Holiday Parks, and even the odd Snooker Club, Cherry provides regulatory support and advice on a number of levels. Members like things that save them time and money, and keep them compliant. The bingo self-exclusion scheme is highly effective and does all of these things. Cherry has put in place a process that provides support to all Association members and has brought together the compliance specialists from around the bingo industry, forming a highly effective team that shares Industry best practice and experiences through the Association's Standing Compliance Committee. It is an Award well-earned and much deserved."

The Global Regulatory Awards are run annually by Gambling Compliance and have a total of fifteen individual categories, all relating aspects of compliance in the gambling industry.

For further information on The Bingo Association please visit [www.bingo-association.co.uk](http://www.bingo-association.co.uk) and for Gambling Compliance, Global Regulatory Awards please visit [gamblingcomplianceawards.com](http://gamblingcomplianceawards.com)

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### **Notes to editors**

#### The Bingo Association

- The Bingo Association is the trade association of the licensed bingo industry in Great Britain, representing the proprietors licensed under The Gambling Act 2005.  
[www.bingo-association.co.uk](http://www.bingo-association.co.uk).
- There are 51 proprietors in membership. Membership profile ranges from the large operators, including Gala (127 clubs) and Mecca (97 clubs), to smaller operators like Carlton Leisure (14 clubs) and many single unit businesses. The bingo sector directly employs over 13,000 people in the UK.
- Over 3 million customers made over 48m visits to bingo clubs last year.

#### The Bingo Industry Self-exclusion Scheme

The bingo industry self-exclusion scheme is a national scheme operating across Great Britain. The BA web site also sign posts customers to the self-exclusion schemes of the other gambling sectors.