



For immediate release
15 February 2011

‘NO CHANGE FOR BINGO’

The Bingo Association has today expressed some concern over the apparent increase in the occurrence of problem gambling, as revealed in the Prevalence Study, released today.

The Study shows a clear increase in participation in gambling, but does not show statistically robust data to indicate an equivalent increase in problem gambling.

Paul Talboys, Chief Executive said:

“The Study shows clearly that there has been an increase in participation in gambling, which would by definition lead you to expect that there might be an increase in problem gambling. However, due to sampling and its recognized margins of error, the Study does not confirm whether changes in the occurrence of problem gambling are statistical fluctuations or, more worryingly, an indication of trend. Clearly this is an area that requires greater consideration in order to clarify the occurrence of problem activity within the gambling sector.

The situation for land bingo would appear to have remained broadly unchanged. The Study does show an increase in participation in ‘bingo’, but this figure does not separate land and online. However, based on the industry data that the Association collects from Members, we believe that the vast majority of this increase in participation in bingo has come from bingo played online. If possible drilling down a little further into ‘bingo’ specific data, separating land and online, would give a more informed and detailed picture of the bingo market.

Association Members have worked hard to ensure that they provide a safe environment in which customers may play bingo and today’s results are an indication that these efforts have made a difference.

As a sector bingo has a ‘zero occurrence’ target for problem gambling and has worked hard to move towards this aim, directly through the management and running of clubs and indirectly through its support of rehabilitation, education and treatment services.

Bingo continues to maintain its position firmly at the soft end of the spectrum of gambling activities and works hard to ensure a safe environment for ALL its customers, but must increase its efforts and sharpen its focus. We will be looking more closely at the research findings and seeking to gain greater understanding of the occurrence of problem gambling, in order that we may work with appropriate specialist organisations and our members to improve support in this area.

The nature of player behaviour and activity can differ greatly between different sectors of the gambling industry. As such, sector bodies and their members are best placed to address the specific needs and idiosyncrasies of each sector, ensuring appropriate sensitivity to players' needs.

- ENDS -

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NOTES TO EDITORS

British gambling prevalence surveys

What is a British Gambling Prevalence Survey?

A British Gambling Prevalence Survey is a large-scale nationally representative survey of participation in gambling and the prevalence of problem gambling in Great Britain.

British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2000

The **British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2000** was commissioned by GamCare to provide baseline data on adult gambling behaviour in Great Britain. It was the first nationally representative survey of its kind in this country and it provided statistically robust data on adult participation in gambling plus an estimate of the prevalence of problem gambling in Britain.

A random sample of 7,700 people aged 16 and over participated in the survey.

British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007

The **British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007** was the first to be commissioned by the Gambling Commission and was undertaken to help us

understand the nature and scale of gambling in Great Britain at a point before the Gambling Act 2005 was implemented.

A random sample of 9,003 people aged 16 and over participated in the survey.

Data collected by the survey also formed the basis of a range of secondary analysis projects. The survey data set is available from UK Data Archive.

British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010

The **British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2010** is the third nationally representative survey of participation of gambling and the prevalence of problem gambling in Great Britain. It builds on the first two British prevalence surveys and involves over 7,500 participants.

The Bingo Association

- The Bingo Association is the trade association of the licensed bingo industry in Great Britain, representing the proprietors of bingo clubs licensed under the Gambling Act 2005.
- There are 77 proprietors in membership. Membership profile ranges from the large operators, including Mecca (100 clubs) to smaller operators like Carlton Leisure (14 clubs) and many single unit businesses.
- Around 70% of all Bingo players are women and overall, 10% of all women in the UK play bingo

PR-0058-BA