



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Cautious welcome for Scrutiny Committee Report**

The Bingo Association Chairman, Sir Peter Fry, today gave the report of the Joint Committee on the Draft Gambling Bill a cautious welcome, in respect of the proposals set out, but positive approval for what is a relatively new legislative process.

Sir Peter Fry, Chairman of the Association said:

“The Association is very aware of the need to up-date Britain’s gaming laws, but also acutely aware of the intricacies involved in doing so. The process of pre-legislative scrutiny is a most welcome addition to the legislative process and one that has provided a further valuable opportunity for the bingo industry to present its unique case.”

“The proposals put forward in the Report clearly acknowledge that bingo occupies a special position in the spectrum of gaming activity and one that should be recognised and preserved, where to do so would benefit the immediate local community. Bingo has always been seen as ‘soft’ gaming and clearly from the comments of the Committee this is something that should remain unchanged.”

“The issue of concern is the process by which bingo’s position, in both the gaming spectrum and local community, be sustained. While the need to devolve local decisions to local Councils is sensible, what remains unclear is the level to which local decision making authorities will be given specific directives, which manage the impact of local decisions in shaping the national landscape, or merely given guidelines. The latter clearly creates considerable scope for a post de-regulation landscape that is patchy, uneven and potentially exploitative of certain regions.”

- ENDS -

## Notes to Editors

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### About The Bingo Association:

The Bingo Association is the trade body for the licensed bingo industry in Great Britain, representing the proprietors of bingo clubs licensed under the Gaming Act 1968. The purpose of The Bingo Association is to promote and develop the interests of the licensed bingo industry and to represent members' interests in contacts with third parties, in particular with various government departments, other trade associations and the media.

There are 110 proprietors in membership and between them they operate 538 bingo clubs. Membership profile ranges from the very large operators with well over 100 clubs, to many single unit businesses.

[www.bingo-association.co.uk](http://www.bingo-association.co.uk)

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