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For immediate release:

DCMS still not facing the truth says Bingo Association

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee's 7th Report to Government on *A Safe Bet for Success* has received a bland response.

Sir Peter Fry, Bingo Association Chairman said:

"We are grateful that the Select Committee and Government have recognised that deregulation of the Bingo industry is unlikely to inflict a significant negative impact on the lottery. However, while Government are aware of the issues surrounding how Bingo is played, they continue to fail to grasp the huge significance to operators and players of "where" and in what "environment".

"Where Bingo will be played in the future is of great importance to our members and a large number of the playing public. Should Bingo be allowed in a casino environment there is a real threat to Bingo operators and of Bingo players being encouraged to trade up their gaming activity."

"The closing of many small neighbourhood clubs would mean depriving a large number of people of a local social facility and a downturn for local businesses."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

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Picture of Sir Peter available electronically

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

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