



30 August 2002

For immediate release:

Bingo Association seeking tax structure that works for all

Following an initial period of consultation with the Bingo Association, HM Customs and Excise have issued a consultation document called "*The Modernisation of Gambling Taxes: Consultation on the Abolition of Bingo Duty*".

Sir Peter Fry, Chairman of The Bingo Association said,

"The Bingo Association has been very happy to work closely with Customs and Excise on the Chancellor's proposal to alter the way in which bingo is taxed and welcomes the consultation document, which affords all interested parties the opportunity to comment. Since the Chancellor made his initial announcement in the April Budget, many media stories have made the assumption that prizes for players will increase."

"While this is hoped for, it is not a forgone conclusion and represents only one of a number of positive outcomes that the Association is seeking on behalf of its members. It will be vital that the rate set is fair and one which will enable bigger prizes, re-investment in the business, support for those clubs that have found trading difficult in recent years and one which sees bingo more fairly taxed in relation to other gaming activities. A situation that has long remained un-addressed."

"If all these points can be achieved it will ensure a positive future for the UK's bingo industry and those involved in it, players and operators alike."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

For further information contact:
Steven Baldwin, Communications Manager
01582 860915
steven@bingo-association.co.uk

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

Bingo Duty

Bingo duty was introduced in 1969 to replace bingo licence duty, and is charged both on stake money paid by players, and on the money added to the prize fund by the bingo club. Over the 1980 and 1981 Budgets, the rates of duty were doubled to their current levels: 10% of stakes and 1/9-th of added prize money. There is no duty on the bingo played in social clubs or members clubs, and they are not affected by these proposals.

PR-0006-BA