



**Press release - for immediate release
24th July 2012**

The Bingo Association welcomes DCMS call for Bingo to be taxed at 15%

The Culture Media and Sport Select Committee investigating The Gambling Act 2005 has today published its report "*The Gambling Act 2005: A bet worth taking?*", in which it states that 'bingo should be taxed in line with other forms of gambling at 15%'.

Following an extensive review of The Act, its development, implementation, enforcement and impact on operators and consumers, the Report makes a number of significant recommendations, with regard to future developments in the gambling sector.

The Report firmly acknowledges bingo's position as soft gambling and supports the original vision, set out in the 2001 Gambling Review Report, that bingo clubs be maintained as social, soft gambling, environments. In acknowledging that the bingo sector remains highly taxed in comparison with other sectors, the Report recommends that Treasury make an assessment and investigate the position within the next financial year.

Paul Talboys, Chief Executive, The Bingo Association said:

"We are pleased that the Select Committee has recognised that bingo should be taxed at 15%, bringing it in line with the other forms of gambling in the UK. We remain convinced that a fair tax regime which supports UK jobs and stimulates local economies can only be achieved by introducing a single rate of tax for all products governed by The Gambling Act."

"In moving forward to create a sector with a genuinely 'level playing field' it will be essential for all involved, that the DCMS and Treasury, who are responsible for creating the framework (regulatory and tax) that the industry operates within, work together in a co-operative and considered manner."

Ends

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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 of land-based bingo clubs licensed under the Gambling Act 2005
- There are 50 proprietors in membership. Membership profile ranges from the large operators, including Mecca (98 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
- www.bingo-association.co.uk

House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee – Announced 17th May 2011

Members

Mr John Whittingdale MP (*Conservative, Maldon*) (Chair)
Dr Thérèse Coffey MP (*Conservative, Suffolk Coastal*)
Damian Collins MP (*Conservative, Folkestone and Hythe*)
Philip Davies MP (*Conservative, Shipley*)
Paul Farrelly MP (*Labour, Newcastle-under-Lyme*)
Louise Mensch MP (*Conservative, Corby*)
Steve Rotheram MP (*Labour, Liverpool, Walton*)
Mr Adrian Sanders MP (*Liberal Democrat, Torbay*)
Jim Sheridan MP (*Labour, Paisley and Renfrewshire North*)
Mr Gerry Sutcliffe MP (*Labour, Bradford South*)
Mr Tom Watson MP (*Labour, West Bromwich East*)

Evidence

Six hearings were held in late 2011, across which the Committee heard evidence from 49 individuals, in addition to receiving 109 pieces of written evidence. This was supported by visits to Brussels, Australia and Macao.

A full copy of the Report will be available on the House of Commons website and later today on The Bingo Association website.