



**Press release - for immediate release
15 January 2013**

Bingo Association comments on the Government's Response to the Select Committee Report, "The Gambling Act 2005: A Bet Worth Taking?"

The Bingo Association notes with disappointment that the Government has once more failed to listen to the large body of evidence pointing to the benefits of a tax rate change for bingo.

The Select Committee heard evidence from Treasury ministers as well as members of the industry and concluded that a reduction in the rate of Gross Profit Tax (GPT) for bingo, from 20 to 15 per cent, would lead to increased investment in the bingo sector as well as a rise in net tax take. This is supported by a substantial body of evidence produced by Ernst and Young.

Chief Executive, Miles Baron said:

"The Select Committee rightly referred to bingo as 'one of the softest forms of gambling', aware of the social and community role that bingo plays all over the UK.

It is extremely disappointing to see the Government fail to acknowledge this while they also keep bingo on a higher rate of tax than nearly all other forms of gambling, including even online bingo.

The bingo industry will continue to build on the wide spectrum of political support that it has and make the case to Treasury that it would be of benefit both to Exchequer receipts and to the industry, to instate a fair and growth stimulating tax regime."

Ends

For further information, please contact:

Email: bingo@luther.co.uk

Tel: 020 7618 9166

Notes to editors

The Bingo Association

- The Bingo Association is the trade association of the licensed bingo industry in Great Britain, representing the proprietors licensed under The Gambling Act 2005. www.bingo-association.co.uk.
- There are 51 proprietors in membership. Membership profile ranges from the large operators, including Gala (138 clubs) and Mecca (97 clubs), to smaller operators like Carlton Leisure (14 clubs) and many single unit businesses. The bingo sector directly employs over 13,000 people in the UK.
- Over 3 million customers made over 48m visits to bingo clubs last year.
- The House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee concluded in July 2012 that, "We recognise that the Bingo sector remains highly taxed in comparison with other sectors despite its status as one of the softest forms of gambling. In principle we believe that bingo should be taxed in line with other forms of gambling at 15%. Moreover, we recommend that the Treasury make an assessment, within the next financial year, of the likelihood that a reduction in bingo duty, to 15%, would result in increased investment in the bingo sector and a rise in net tax take."