

## **House! Bingo Celebrates a Huge Boost from the Chancellor as Bingo Duty Halved to 10%**

**For Immediate Release  
19<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

A third of a million bingo customers who backed a campaign to boost their favourite game are celebrating, after the Chancellor reduced the tax burden on bingo clubs in almost 400 communities across Britain.

In today's Budget, George Osborne reduced the duty on bingo clubs from 20% to 10%, exceeding the campaign call for a 5% reduction. It means bingo clubs across England, Scotland and Wales have been given an extra boost and will now be able to invest in new premises, modernisation and jobs.

The Boost Bingo campaign, run by The Bingo Association, gathered more than 330,000 petition signatures from bingo players across Britain. More than 50 MPs supported the campaign, either in their constituencies by visiting their local bingo club, or on the floor of the House of Commons.

The campaign reached a climax when the petition was delivered to the Chancellor's residence at Number 11 Downing Street, on the 26<sup>th</sup> February. Nearly two hundred bingo players joined MPs for a celebratory procession past the Houses of Parliament. Rob Halfon MP, Brian Binley MP, Therese Coffey MP, Peter Aldous MP, Philip Davies MP and Meg Hillier MP came out to meet their constituents and give their full support to the Boost Bingo campaign.

Announcing the change the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP, praised his colleagues in Harlow and Waveney and the "*vigorous campaign to cut bingo duty*" before saying:

*"They want the rate cut to 15%, I can go further – bingo duty will be halved to 10%"*

**Miles Baron, Chief Executive of The Bingo Association, said:**

*"This is the most fantastic news – everyone is absolutely delighted. The decision to reduce duty to 10% means bingo clubs will get an even bigger boost than we had hoped for."*

*"As Chief Executive of The Bingo Association, I would like to say an enormous thank you to the 330,000 people who backed the Boost Bingo campaign by signing our petition, to the dozens of MPs who visited their local clubs and asked questions in the House, to PLMR who supported us with our campaign, and of course to the Chancellor... for recognising the importance of bingo clubs in nearly 400 communities across Britain."*

*"Bingo operators identified a programme of investment that would be freed up by a 5% tax reduction. Now that we have secured a 10% reduction, operators will be relooking at their investment and modernisation plans, to stimulate the industry."*

*"Bingo fans across the country will be celebrating today!"*

**Ends**

## Notes to Editors

1. The bingo industry **generates more than £200 million in tax revenue for the Government each year, employs 12,500 people and includes almost 400 licensed bingo clubs across Great Britain.**
2. The Bingo Association launched the Boost Bingo Campaign on 13th January 2014 to show policymakers the benefits of reducing bingo duty. Lowering the duty will lead to investment, modernisation and jobs.
3. The Bingo Association (BA) was formed in 1998, following the merger of the British Bingo Operators' Association and The Bingo Association of Great Britain. Bingo is a unique part of the gambling industry, firmly at the soft end of the spectrum of gambling activities, rooted in the social arena.
4. The Bingo Association represents all licensed bingo operators, and works on their behalf with the Government, policy makers, regulators, the Responsible Gambling Trust, and gambling sector trade organisations.
5. Professional services firm EY has produced detailed analysis of how the bingo industry would respond to a 5% reduction in bingo duty. They have demonstrated that this reduction will drive additional revenue for bingo clubs, in turn generating additional revenues for the Exchequer.
6. For more information on the Boost Bingo campaign, and to view the Boost Bingo campaign video, go to [www.boostbingo.co.uk](http://www.boostbingo.co.uk)

**For more information, please email [boostbingo@bingo-association.co.uk](mailto:boostbingo@bingo-association.co.uk),**

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