



Press release - for immediate release

26th August 2014

Inverness bingo club receives visit from Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander MP

Carlton Bingo Club in Beechwood, Inverness, received a visit from Chief Secretary to the Treasury and local MP Danny Alexander.

Mr Alexander visited his local bingo club where he had a chance to talk to the management team and to bingo players, as well as calling a bingo game.

Mr Alexander met General Manager Craig Oliver, who spoke to the Treasury Secretary about the positive impact the reduction in Bingo Duty, which was announced by Treasury earlier this year, was having on the industry. Mr Alexander was also able to meet some of his constituents and learn more about them and why they like playing bingo. Mr Alexander commented on the inclusive and community-focused nature of the game.

The Boost Bingo campaign, run by The Bingo Association from January to March 2014, called for a reduction in bingo duty and gathered more than 330,000 supportive petition signatures from bingo players across Britain. The 2014 Budget saw the campaign succeed with Chancellor George Osborne announcing Bingo Duty would be reduced from 20% to 10%. The Bingo Duty reduction came into force in July 2014.

Craig Oliver, General Manager at Carlton Bingo Club, Inverness said:

"We would like to thank Mr Alexander for visiting our club. It was a pleasure to have him and be able to tell him first-hand the positive impact that the Bingo Duty reduction is having on the industry and the importance of our club to the local community."

Danny Alexander MP said:

"I'm used to working with numbers in the Treasury but calling the numbers at the bingo was a new experience for me.

It was great to talk to people and hear about the positive effect that the Bingo Duty

reduction announced by the Government earlier this year is having on the bingo industry. I am pleased that we are helping to secure the future of an activity that is at the heart of many communities across the UK, including Beechwood.”

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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 licensed under The Gambling Act 2005.
- There are 79 proprietors in membership. Membership profile ranges from the large operators, including Gala (110 clubs) and Mecca (98 clubs), to smaller operators like Carlton Clubs (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