



**For immediate release
30 March 2007**

Casino impact on bingo

Wednesday's rejection by the House of Lords of the proposal for the Manchester super casino and sixteen further regional casinos has been viewed by the Bingo Association as further evidence of how poorly considered the new Gambling Act has been, in terms of drafting, implementation and impact.

Association Chairman, Sir Peter Fry commented:

"This is yet another example of how the Government's original plans for gambling have gone wrong and does indicate that taking more time would perhaps have produced a more balanced result for the gambling industry overall and the communities in which it operates in."

"We shall watch very closely what the Secretary of State has to say on the future of new casino's and their ability to offer bingo."

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- 'Stop Destroying My Bingo' is a national petition launched by The Bingo Association on Monday 5 March 2007. The petition closes on Sunday 25 March, following which signatures will be counted and the petition delivered to Downing Street. Players and supporters can sign the petition up to Sunday 25 March by visiting their local club (you can find your nearest club by visiting www.nationalbingo.co.uk and going to the club search section), calling 01582 860 900 or going on-line to www.backbingo.co.uk where you can print a petition form off and send it Freepost to The Bingo Association.
- The Bingo Association is the trade association of the licensed bingo industry in Great Britain, representing the proprietors of bingo clubs licensed under the Gaming Act 1968.
- There are 109 proprietors in membership and between them they operate 548 bingo clubs. Membership profile ranges from the very large operators, including Mecca (108

clubs) and Gala (170 clubs), to smaller operators like Castle (9 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