



For Immediate Release – 27 October 2005

BINGO ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR TOTAL SMOKING BAN

The Bingo Association is appalled at the Government's Bill on banning smoking in some public places. Indeed, it is incredible that when virtually the whole leisure and hospitality industry favours a total ban that the Government has gone the other way – even though its own consultation paper admitted that a partial ban could be 40% less effective than a full one.

It would appear that the industries affected, like Bingo, are more concerned about the nation's health than the Government, which is supposed to protect it.

In any event, the proposed Bill, if enacted will create even more problems because Scotland and Northern Ireland have already announced total bans and the Welsh Assembly will do likewise once it has the power to do so. Is it too much to expect the Government to have any degree of consistency?

The question that needs answering is, if the industries affected are prepared to meet the challenge and the cost of a total ban, why is the Government being so pathetic – is it because it feels tobacco duty is more important?

- Ends -

For further press information or an interview with the Chairman of the Bingo Association, please contact Amanda Fry on 020 7053 6005/07950 286538.

Notes to Editors:

- 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 110 proprietors in membership and between them they operate 553 bingo clubs. Membership profile ranges from the very large operators, including Mecca (124 clubs) and Gala (168 clubs), to smaller operators like Castle (10 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
- There are 3.1 million regular bingo players in the UK

PR-0036-BA