



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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No Full House for Bingo Industry

Members of The Bingo Association have received the Government's Gambling Bill, laid on Monday and published today, with mixed views.

Some of the representations made to Government by the bingo industry have been reflected in the Bill, but most remain dependent upon further conditions yet to be specified or subject to new regulations to be introduced by the Secretary of State. In view of this it is not possible to assess if the Bill will meet even the minimum needs of the industry.

Sir Peter Fry, Chairman of the Association said:

"The Association and its members have spent a considerable amount of time preparing and presenting detailed information to the DCMS and the Pre-legislative Scrutiny Committee, in order for these two parties to make informed decisions. Although some of our concerns have been met, the majority of members, particularly the smaller clubs, feel that the overall result may still adversely affect their future."

"To give the bingo industry a stronger base to meet new competition, particularly from overseas operators, we need to ensure that the Bill grants new freedoms for the sector and does not simultaneously erode existing ones. We shall be seeking further clarification of the unspecified conditions and lobbying to ensure that appropriate questions about such a significant piece of legislation are raised. If the new Gambling Bill is to be anything like the success that Government claims it will be, it will need close examination and questions to be asked during the Bill's passage through both Houses."

The Bill will bring about a number of changes for the bingo industry, which also faces the threat of major change in taxation of gaming machines, an issue that will greatly affect the success or failure of the new Bill for the gaming sector.

- ENDS -

Notes to Editors

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About The Bingo Association:

The Bingo Association is the trade body for the licensed bingo industry in Great Britain, representing the proprietors of bingo clubs licensed under the Gaming Act 1968. The purpose of The Bingo Association is to promote and develop the interests of the licensed bingo industry and to represent members' interests in contacts with third parties, in particular with various government departments, other trade associations and the media.

There are 110 proprietors in membership and between them they operate 538 bingo clubs. Membership profile ranges from the very large operators with well over 100 clubs, to many single unit businesses.

www.bingo-association.co.uk

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