



29th September 2004

Smoking in Public Places Consultation Team
3E(S) St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Sirs

CONSULTATION RESPONSE

We have seen a copy of your consultation paper and we would like to respond on behalf of our Association members in Scotland. The Bingo Association is the national trade association for commercial bingo operators. We have over 120 clubs owned by our members in Scotland, which is a substantial percentage of the total number of clubs in the United Kingdom.

We therefore hope that you will accept our comments, submitted on an electronic response form via your website, on behalf of our Association members as a whole in Scotland. Of course, some of them will also have made individual submissions to you.

As an Association we have already had discussions with the British Hospitality Association and have offered to discuss the matter further with the Department of Health. We enclose a copy of a submission that we recently made to the Department of Health for your information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Fry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

SIR PETER FRY
CHAIRMAN

27th May 2004

Choosing Health? Project Team
Department of Health, Room 528/9
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 0NS

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Dear Sirs

SMOKING IN ENCLOSED PUBLIC PLACES

The Bingo Association is the trade association representing owners and operators of commercial bingo halls licensed under Part II of the Gaming Act 1968. Our membership ranges from the largest companies, operating well over 100 clubs each, to companies operating just one club. Our members' interests cover the whole of Great Britain.

The bingo industry has, for many years, appreciated the difficulties associated with smoking in places of public resort. Whilst the number of non-smokers attending bingo has increased, it is still the case that the majority of our customers are smokers. Our members have addressed the problem in two ways; firstly by providing no-smoking areas within their clubs and, secondly, by installing improved ventilation systems.

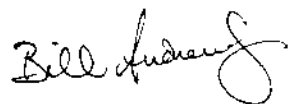
Possibly all, but certainly the very great majority of, clubs in membership delineate areas of seating in which smoking is prohibited. These areas are identified by signs although, in one case, the no-smoking area is identified by a different colour of seating.

In addition to having no-smoking areas, many of our members have invested significant sums in installing upgraded ventilation systems in their premises. This is particularly so in the purpose-built premises which have opened in the past 10 years.

The Association is now beginning work to see what steps might be taken to improve on the present situation, including the development of a Code of Practice that could formalise and enhance the practices employed up to now.

Lastly, will you kindly keep us updated and involved in the progress of this consultation, as we wish to communicate with you directly rather than be part of a wider representation from the leisure/hospitality industry generally.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Andrews". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

W G ANDREWS
ADMINISTRATION MANAGER