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Mr. C. Bone,  
Department for Culture Media and Sport,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
2-4 Cockspur Street,  
LONDON SW1Y 5DH

24<sup>th</sup> February, 2004

Dear Mr Bone,

*Alex - for consultation responses, pl  
pl. email me yr. standard  
response so I can tailor the  
reply.*

**Response to Draft Gambling Bill**

I write to confirm that this Company supports in its entirety the submission by The Bingo Association in response to the Draft Gambling Bill.

You will, be aware of our serious concerns on certain aspects, particularly the proposal to allow bingo in casinos. This concern is shared by both Carlton Clubs PLC and The Cambos Organisation Limited, being the other leading independent bingo companies in the U.K.

We have jointly made these points directly to the Joint Scrutiny Committee and in the meeting last week with Graham Catt and John Lepper.

It is quite evident that the Director General of Fair Trading had, in August 2000, concerns over bingo industry concentration and the potential reduction in competition within bingo. The D.G.F.T. stated 'Gala may be of such a size that it would be able to, and be in its interests to, exit the National Bingo Game in favour of operating its own linked games....'

Since then the Industry concentration has grown to two companies enjoying 66% of the industry volumes with substantial evidence of domination of local markets by these two companies.

If the proposal to include bingo in casinos proceeds it is the view of Carlton, Cambos and ourselves that both the competitiveness of the bingo industry and competition within the bingo market will be detrimentally effected.

Yours sincerely,

*J* *G Harris*  
J.C. Harris  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Cc John Anderson  
Peter Perrins

*cc Graham Catt  
John Lepper  
Graig Chidness*