



Licensing Office  
Burnley Borough Council  
Parker Lane  
Burnley  
BB11 2DT  
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### **Bingo In Pubs – Advice**

It is useful to make you aware of the relevant legislation and guidance.

Bingo can take place in any premises that has a Premises Licence that permits the sale of alcohol without an operating licence but only under an exemption as long as the following are complied with

1. Bingo can only be offered within an alcohol-licensed premises.
2. No profit can be made from the bingo itself. This means they cannot charge a fee for participating in bingo - nor can they take a cut from either the money paid to play bingo (stakes), or from the prize amounts awarded.
3. It must be possible for bingo players to gain entry to the premises without paying an admission fee. This is because admission fees to premises where bingo takes place are treated as participation fees i.e. profit.
4. All stakes for bingo games must be returned as prizes. So, if they raise £500 in total from all bingo players, they must return the whole £500 in prizes.
5. The maximum stake they can charge is £5 per person per game.
6. The chances of winning a prize must be equally favorable to all players.
7. The operator can't link up the bingo games with other bingo games taking place on a different set of premises.
8. No under 18s can be allowed to play. They must have controls in place to prevent underage gambling.
9. The bingo must comply with the Code of Practice for equal chance gaming in club and premises with an alcohol licence - this includes compliance with the maximum stakes of £5 per person per game.
10. They must notify the Commission - and may need to apply for an operating licence - if the bingo involves more than £2,000 in stakes, or they award more than £2,000 in prizes, in any seven-day period.

More information can be found at the Gambling Commission website and here it also states :-

18.13 In addition, new rules are laid down in the Act about the playing of bingo specifically in alcohol-licensed premises, clubs and miners' welfare institutes. Where the level of bingo played in these premises reaches a certain threshold, it will no longer be authorised by these rules and a bingo operating licence will have to be obtained from the Commission for future bingo games. Even in this circumstance, bingo can still only be offered under the rules for exempt gaming. The aim of these provisions is to prevent bingo becoming a predominant commercial activity on such non-gambling premises.

18.14 The threshold is reached if the bingo played during any seven-day period exceeds £2,000 (either in money taken or prizes awarded) once in a year, referred to as 'high turnover bingo'. There is a legal duty on the licensee or club to inform the Commission if they offer high turnover bingo in any seven day period. This allows the Commission to monitor the bingo activity on the premises, and discuss with the relevant licensee or club the point at which a bingo operating licence may be needed.

**So if you organise a Bingo evening (and you hold a Premises Licence that allows the supply of alcohol) then that licence would allow some exempt gaming which would include Bingo provided the above is adhered to.**

**However you are using the Premises Licence exemption and so the DPS of the Premises Licence needs to be aware that any breaches of the above could potentially put the Premises Licence at risk.**

**This is spelt out in Code provision 1.1 of the attached document (Code of Practice) [www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/authorities/codes-of-practice/guide/page/section-b-equal-chance-gaming-in-clubs-and-premises-with-an-alcohol-licence](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/authorities/codes-of-practice/guide/page/section-b-equal-chance-gaming-in-clubs-and-premises-with-an-alcohol-licence)**

If any events are planned then based on the information above the event will adhere to the guidance and requirements that allows the exemption.

If an event takes place and it does not adhere to the above, then it may be investigated by our office and / or the Gambling Commission and appropriate action taken.