



Commercial bingo is a popular pastime in Britain. There are almost 700 licensed bingo clubs in operation. Last year there were over 78 million bingo club admissions, and it is estimated that there are currently about 3 million active bingo club members.

Bingo is the only gambling activity where women are more likely to play than men. 70% of bingo players are women, and 30% are men.

### **Current legislation**

The Gambling Commission regulates commercial bingo under the Gaming Act 1968. In 2007, this will be superseded by the Gambling Act 2005. Details on transitional arrangements are published on the left-hand menu.

Not all types of bingo require a licence – please see the bingo FAQs on our website if you are in doubt.

Commercial bingo operations need a certificate of consent from the Gambling Commission to operate, and some members of staff need certificates of approval. For more information see below Bingo certificates. Commercial bingo operators also need approval from their local Licensing Authority.

### **Bingo Certificates**

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Commercial bingo may lawfully be played on premises holding a licence issued under Part II of the 1968 Gaming Act. This will be superseded in 2007 by the Gaming Act.

A licence is required for any premises or club the principal purpose of which is the playing of bingo, whether for commercial profit or otherwise. A certificate of consent from the Gambling Commission must first be obtained before application is made to the local licensing committee for a gaming licence to play licensed bingo.