



Press Release

26 February 2008

**BACTA welcomes Conservative Party support for campaign to
save British Amusement Arcades industry**

The Conservative Party has pledged today to amend the Government's Gambling Act 2005 to remove the perverse effects of the legislation upon the British amusement arcade and machine manufacturing trades.

Tobias Ellwood MP, Conservative Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport, wrote to all Conservative MPs today, encouraging them to back the campaign to save the UK's traditional coin-operated gaming industry, by signing an Early Day Motion (EDM 840) in support of the amendments to the Gambling Act.

The Conservative Party also signalled its full support for BACTA's campaign in a statement today from Roger Gale MP. Gale is meeting today with Leslie Macleod-Miller, Chief Executive of BACTA, to see what further measures may be taken to persuade the present Government to change its legislation.

BACTA's campaign has already gathered support from a large number of Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs.

Nick Harding, President of BACTA, said:

"We welcome this support from the Conservative Party. There is now significant support from all sides of the House for the campaign to save Britain's arcades. With cross-party support the Government can act quickly and decisively to reverse these unintended consequences of the Gambling Act. It is not a moment too soon, something has to be done urgently as businesses are going bust now."

Ends

Enquiries

Members of Parliament - Politics International, 0207 592 3809

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Notes to Editors

Geraldine Smith MP (Lab), has put down an Early Day Motion (EDM 840) calling for changes to the Gambling Act to address the unintended consequences of the Gambling Act 2005 on the UK's coin-operated gaming sector.

As at 26th February 2008 it has attracted 53 Labour, 16 Conservative, 19 Liberal Democrat, 2 SNP and 1 independent signature.

About BACTA

BACTA is the trade association representing the UK pay-to-play leisure sector, including amusement centres, arcades, bingo halls and retail outlets in pubs and clubs, and gaming machine manufacturers and suppliers.

For more information please go to www.saveourarcades.com or www.bacta.org.uk