

**Bingo Project Information and Invitation Form**

An invitation to take part in a research project on the regulation of bingo, by means of an interview.

***What we are doing in this project.***

My name is Kate Bedford. I work with Oscar Alvarez at the University of Kent. We are both academics, with backgrounds in the study of law and politics.

We are undertaking a three year research project, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, into the regulation of bingo in different places (England and Wales; Canada; Brazil; and online in Europe). We think that bingo is under-researched, attracting a fraction of the attention given to casinos. We want to know more about how the bingo sector is regulated in different places, and about how people involved in the sector experience the regulations. We are interested in all types of bingo (e.g. in commercial bingo halls; in community centres; in social clubs; and online). Our research will ascertain the key legal and policy challenges involved in regulating bingo as experienced by a variety of stakeholders, and make recommendations to UK policymakers, the UK bingo industry, third sector stakeholders, and academics.

As part of the research, we need to interview key stakeholders involved in bingo regulation to get a sense of how they experience the regulations. We also occasionally play bingo, to see bingo rules in practice.

We would like to invite you to participate in the research via an interview.

***What will the interview involve?***

The interview will be anonymous and confidential. You will not be identified in any research presentation or publication stemming from the interview.

The interview will be semi-structured. That means that we will bring with us some general questions, covering your background in the bingo sector, and your experiences of and views on the regulations that you encounter in your work. The interview will be run as a conversation, with open-ended questions. Not all of the questions will be relevant to you, and we will skip any that are not relevant, or that you not wish to answer.

We estimate that the interview will last around 45 minutes, but it may take up to 1 hour and 30 minutes. You can stop the interview at any point.

We will ask your permission to record the interview, on a digital recorder owned by us. We prefer to record the interview so that we have a full record of the conversation to send back to you, in case you wish to add or change anything. It also makes it easier for us to use your exact words in a quotation (although without your name attached). If you agree to your interview being recorded, we will save the digital file containing your interview into a password protected folder, to which only we (Oscar and I) have access. We will then create a transcript of your interview. We will send this transcript back to you, either to a private email address of your choosing, or to a private postal address. If you wish, you can look over your transcript, change anything in it, and send it back to us with any corrections or clarifications. At this point, we will anonymise your transcript, so that you cannot be identified. We will also remove information about the organisation for which you work/volunteer.

If you do not wish to have the interview recorded, we will ask to take detailed notes during the conversation. A copy of these will also be returned to you, in case you wish to add or change anything, and the notes will then be anonymised.

***Some questions that you may have.***

“How, precisely, will my interview be used in the research?”

Your interview will be used to help us understand how different groups of bingo stakeholders experience and view the regulations that govern the game. Your interview will help us to identify key debates within the sector, and to compare visions for how to move forward. We will compare interviews, to see if any patterns emerge – for example, if there are differences or similarities between regions of the country, or between different types stakeholders. If your interview was recorded, we may quote your words in publications, reports, web pages, and other research outputs – but we will not use your name, or the name of the organisation for which you work/volunteer.

“Can I change my mind about participating?”

Yes. If you change your mind about being interviewed, you can say so at any point. You do not need to give a reason.

“Can I ask you to turn the digital recorder off after we have started the interview?”

Yes. You can ask us to turn off the recorder at any point if you prefer. You do not need to give a reason.

“How will the transcript be archived, when the project ends?”

At the end of the project, we will share our data with the UK Data Archive so that other researchers can access it. We will only share the anonymous version of the transcript. The UK Data Archive will only allow genuine researchers to have access to it, and only if they agree to preserve the confidentiality of the information.

“What else will I be required to do, other than the interview?”

Nothing. If you have your interview recorded, we will send you the transcript back. You can choose whether or not you wish to look over your transcript and make changes. If you are involved in running a bingo game, we may ask you if we can play. If you agree, we will buy our tickets ourselves. We may take notes during the game, or afterwards. The notes will be anonymised, so that the location of the bingo game and the identities of those present can not be known.

“Will I get anything out of the research?”

We hope that the research will be useful to those in the bingo sector. Since there is so little academic research on bingo, we hope that we can show the significance of the sector, in economic, social, and scholarly terms. To do that, we want to include the voices of individuals and groups who have knowledge of bingo regulation. We plan to make concrete recommendations to UK policymakers, the UK bingo industry, and third sector stakeholders about bingo regulation, based on what we learn from the project: it is our hope that the sector as a whole might benefit from this. We will also disseminate the results of our research in accessible ways, on our website and in basic summaries of the findings that will be sent to everyone who participated.

We appreciate your time in considering this invitation. Our contact details are below. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Bedford and Oscar Alvarez

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