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For Immediate Release

GAMING INDUSTRY HEADING FOR TOUGH TIMES IN 2010 WARNS BISL

The Gaming industry has issued a stark warning that with reduced disposable income from consumers, it is likely to face another tough year of cuts and tax increases in 2010.

Speaking at the International Gaming Exhibition at Earls Court, London, Russell Hoyle, Director of Business In Sport and Leisure (BISL) said he was concerned that the Government had already adopted an aggressive approach towards smoking, and the alcohol trade, and it is possible that the gaming industry could be next on the list.

In his presentation: 'Gambling On A New Government, Dealing With The 2010 General Election', Russell Hoyle told delegates at the IGE:

'What we are undoubtedly going to see in this election year are tax increases, higher unemployment, and a reduction in public spending. This in turn means a strong downward pressure on consumer's disposable income.

'It's no secret that that the licensed trade and the gaming industry are soft targets for hefty tax increases but we should not forget that they are run by highly responsible organisations employing hundreds of thousands of people, and contributing billions to the UK economy.

'Here at BISL, we are working harder than ever in making sure that our lobbying work continues with appropriate Government departments and now in this election year, building strong relationships with members of the opposition and civil servants. There has never been a more important year to make sure the industry is getting its point across. Certainly in 2010, we will be encouraging members of BISL to invest more in this area despite inevitable cost pressures,' he said.

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Note to editors:

BISL is a membership organisation representing around 100 companies. It seeks to lobby Government and key regulatory stakeholders in a manner complimentary to trade bodies. It works with Government and other public bodies to sustain and grow the sport, leisure and hospitality industry and thus enhance the economy and quality of life.