

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 May 2013 16:00
To: Pubs Consultation Responses
Subject: Pub reforms

Dear Sir,

I am a pub customer of around forty years standing. I have lived in West Norfolk for over 32 years and here in the number of pubs has declined by over 50% in that time. There are now whole areas of town, home to thousands of people which no longer have a pub or club. In the villages it seems to be the exception if there is a pub still open. Much of this decline I feel is due to the actions of the big pub owning companies charging excessive rents and high prices for the products which the pubs are forced to sell. In a conversation with a landlord of a small village local recently, he told me that he was leaving the pub as his rent was being increased to £48,000 per year, and that he could not make a living at that rate.

He is not alone. If action is not taken soon there will be few pubs left in our area, and those that are will be expensive gastro pubs catering for the tourist trade, not locals serving their communities.

Please take this rare opportunity to protect the few pubs and landlords that still remain and give them a fighting chance to survive. I am sure you are familiar with the figures which show how many jobs are created by pubs and the research which demonstrates how important pubs are to their local communities. You have the chance to make a difference – please take it.

Yours sincerely,

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