

From:
Sent: 17 May 2013 19:14
To: Pubs Consultation Responses
Subject: Pub companies and tenants consultation

Dear Sir,

The problem with all initiatives instigated by the Government is that they are conducted and managed by civil servants or political figures, Sir something, Lord something, Lady something etc. who know nothing about the industry they are investigating. The Taylor Report is a prime example; football watching is now expensive and tickets, when available, have to be purchased far in advance. The character of the event has changed beyond recognition now that it isn't possible to turn up on the day and stand on the terraces.

The same is likely to happen with the investigation into the Pub Companies. It is common knowledge amongst beer drinkers that the Pub Companies were formed to avoid the guest beer rules in tied pubs. The best way to combat this is to legislate that any establishment selling beer that is not a true free house (i.e. owned by the person or persons running it) is only allowed to sell beer from a brewery within 30 (for example) miles of the establishment. That would stop breweries, such as Greene King selling their beer in places as far away as Cornwall and would therefore eliminate the major reason for the Pub Companies.

If the Government also legislates that these establishments cannot be sold for a different use there would be an incentive, plus available stock, for smaller breweries to buy pubs nearby. Smaller breweries are generally co-operative and will sell guest beers from other smaller breweries, the Henley Brewhouse is a good example.

Legislating against the Pub Companies is unlikely to be successful long term, legislating to change their business so that it no longer benefits them is more likely to preserve the UK's pub and brewing heritage.

Regards,

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