

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 June 2013 14:42
To: Pubs Consultation Responses
Subject: Code of Practice for Pub Companies

Dear Sir/Madam,

Here's my contribution to the consultation:

I'm a pub-goer and several pubs in my area are struggling, I suspect due to exploitation by pub companies (pubcos).

Another cause for concern is that when these companies refurbish their pubs, their beer prices are massively increased. This has happened twice in my local area recently, with prices rising around 70p/pint when the refurbished pubs are reopened. Would the Code of Practice be able to address this problem by making pubcos pay for refurbishments directly from their profits?

To facilitate this, how about making it legally binding that a pub reopening after refurbishment should maintain its pre-refurbishment prices until such time as the next price increase from its beer suppliers?

I support the following reforms.

- Pubcos have had almost 10 years to get their house in order but self regulation has failed so it's time for a **statutory (legally binding) Code of Practice for pubcos**.
- Large pub companies take more than is fair or sustainable from pub profits so licensees are struggling to make a fair living. To stop the large pubcos charging excessive rents and high beer prices, all pubco licensees should be offered a choice between a tied option and a **Market Rent Only option**. For those who choose to remain tied, a **Guest Beer Option** should be offered. This fair deal will result in the average tied pub being £4000 better off annually.
- It's vital that there's a system in place to ensure pubcos stick to these new rules – so the Code should be underpinned with a **powerful new independent adjudicator** that should have the power to arbitrate disputes, investigate breaches and impose financial penalties on pubcos that break the rules.
- The Code should not apply to Britain's family brewers who operate a different model of the tie – so **companies with under 500 pubs should be exempt** but must abide by a separate voluntary code.
- Fairness and ensuring **tied licensees are no worse off than free of tie licensees** should be at the heart of the Code.

Regards,

04/12/2013