
From:
Sent: 22 May 2013 13:13
To: Pubs Consultation Responses
Subject: Personal Submission

I am pleased to have the opportunity to put my personal views forward on the issue of pubco reform.

I am a regular pub goer with a local pub in the village which is owned by Enterprise Inns.

Since the pub was bought by Enterprise about 12 years ago there have been a succession of licensees, each lasting on average less than 2 years. All have found it impossible to make a living, due, in the main, to excessive rent increases after the first year, and being unable to buy beer on the open market.

It is clear that the current self regulation arrangement is unsustainable from a business point of view, with licensees never having the opportunity of long term fair agreements allowing them to plan and grow the business. Also, with the pub being an essential asset to the local community, the lack of continuity is quite disruptive, not to mention the ever present anxiety that, each time a licensee leaves, the pub will close for good. We have already lost one local pub, it is being converted into a restaurant, another in a nearby village has been sold for residential development. This has greatly reduced consumer choice in the area.

I am not a lover of state regulation in general but, as pubcos seem to be unable or unwilling to adopt fair business practices it seems, unfortunately, that a statutory code is necessary to protect pubs as community assets, and ensure that licensees are dealt with fairly.

I concur with CAMRA's view that 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. An independent adjudicator must have the power to arbitrate disputes, investigate breaches and impose financial penalties on pubcos that break the rules. Fairness and ensuring tied licensees are no worse off than free of tie licensees should be at the heart of the code.

Regards,

This email was received from the INTERNET.

Communications via the GSI may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.
