
From:**Sent:** 14 June 2013 15:07**To:** Pubs Consultation Responses**Subject:** Pubcos Statutory Code Consultation

This Campaign is trying to retain our only village pub for its 800 residents. Our pub, [redacted], currently owned by a pubco, Punch Taverns. The owners have put the pub up for sale because they argue it is not viable. They have made the trading conditions such that viability is an argument that they can seek to rely upon.

This Campaign believes that the [redacted] can be made viable but whilst it is owned by a pubco, and under the way pubcos can currently operate, it is unlikely that this will be the case. Under the pubco this pub has been starved of much needed capital investment and the pub is tied to the pubco's purchasing strategy. All of this has created a business that cannot compete on a level playing field with other local freehouses. This has led to customers staying away or going elsewhere. We need a fair deal for landlords & their customers. Poor investment equals poor ambiance. A pubco's purchasing strategy equals a lack of choice of beers and higher prices than elsewhere. All in all this leads to a downward cycle, which leads to an argument from the pubco of the pub being unviable. Hence the pub is put up for sale & potentially lost to the local community forever.

We support, as a very minimum, pubcos having to abide by a legally binding Statutory Code. We see no reason why a pubco that owns under 500 pubs being exempt from a Statutory Code.

The pubcos have been greedy & they are strangling pubs, which like ours, should be at the heart of their community. Pubcos have a responsibility to the communities that they operate within. We are willing to give them our custom & our money. In return they need to be made to play fair by the customers. We want greater choice of what beer our landlord can purchase & make sure that he isn't having to price his (& our) pub out of the market.

Pubcos also need to treat their landlords fairly. They need to be made to do so as they haven't done so yet. That is why we support a Statutory Code.

If pubcos help to kill our pubs they kill our communities. A Statutory Code can only help communities.

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