
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 June 2013 17:20
To: Pubs Consultation Responses
Subject: pubco reform

I am a pub-goer who has seen too many Local Pubs go out of business in recent years. Pubs in my area are struggling or closing because of exploitation of pubco licensees. 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. 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.

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