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Consumer and Competition Policy
Pubs Consultation
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To the Pub Companies and Tenants Consultation

I am writing as MP for Stoke-on-Trent North to express my support for Option 3: A mandatory free-of-tie option with open market rent review in the Proposed Statutory Code, in response to question 11 of the public consultation.

A number of my constituents have contacted me to tell me that the inability to buy drinks from the open market is adversely affecting their business. They argue that their inability to access a free market is being exploited by pubcos who are charging unjustifiably high prices for their products. Whilst I welcome the Proposed Statutory Code and the introduction of an independent Adjudicator as ways of solving this problem, I believe that a mandatory free-of-tie option is necessary to prevent pubcos undermining the Code by simply raising the price of their products to recoup the financial loss caused by a reduction in rental rates.

I also believe that Option 3 would benefit local breweries by making it easier for them to directly sell their products to more local pubs.

Yours sincerely

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