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03 June 2013

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Our Ref:KH/rc

Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP LONDON SW1A 0AA
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria St
LONDON
SW1H 0ET



Dear Secretary of State,

CONSULTATION ON PUB COMPANY REFORM

I wish to express my support for Option 3 (a mandatory free of tie option with open market rent reviews) in the above consultation. The government has continued to allow pub companies to use their market dominance to unfairly exploit tenants. The government should introduce a statutory code and an independent adjudicator to ensure that tenants are treated lawfully and fairly and that tied tenants should be no worse off than free of tie tenants. In order to achieve this, a compulsory free of tie option should be available to tenants.

The new statutory code should include the right to an open market rent assessment, proper transparency in pricing so tied tenants can check they are no worse off than free of tie tenants, and a guest beer option.

The new adjudicator should have all of the suggested powers in the consultation and these reforms should apply to companies with 500 or more pubs. Regulations should be in place the existing pubcos should not be able to create subsidiaries with less than 500 pubs in each company in order to avoid regulation.

I would urge the government to consider these proposals positively and I look forward to an early response to the consultation followed by appropriate legislation. The current unacceptable situation has gone on too long without a government response. During this time too many pubs have closed and valuable community assets lost forever.

I look forward to a brief response to my letter.

Yours sincerely,

Kelvin Hopkins MP

Please reply to:-



Westminster Office Constituency Office