

Punch

RT. Hon. Dr Vince Cable MP
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and
Skills
Dept for Business, Innovation and Skills
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

11 JUN 2013

Wednesday 29 May 2013.

Dear Sir,

**RE: GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PUB COMPANIES AND TENANTS
APRIL 2013.**

We are a professional interior design consultancy within the licensed section and wish to provide support to Punch Taverns with regards to the Consultation of Pub Companies and Tenants April 2013.

We are a small business in our seventh year of trading. The business started prior to the economic decline of 2007 and had struggled throughout the recession. Punch Taverns commenced with a rather surmountable refurbishment and investment programme over the past two years enabling our company to increase to a staff of seven full time designers and architectural technicians.

We have been involved within the Licensed Industry Sector for over 15 years and have worked with many breweries and pub companies. We have seen the dedication employed by Punch Taverns to be significant and Industry leading and without this company many thousands of businesses would not have survived the fall in trade.

Punch Taverns is an effective and resourceful company investing not only in refurbishments but also in 'self generated' codes of practice, Partner (business) support, partner development, partner training, partner (personal) support. Punch employs dedicated support for Partner businesses being linked to management, marketing, catering, finance, product, dispense, property and staff training as well as a number of additional support departments.

We believe this to be the best and most intricate level of support within the Industry.

With regards to Punch Taverns as a property owner they have 'raised the bar' and set new standards. We are part of the Ready for Business Scheme which ensures its' premises complies with all legislation and certification. Punch have also embarked upon its' own 'Code of Practice' programme to ensure ever premises within its portfolio is compliant to a 13 Header Checklist encompassing a vast array of certification and property management.

Over the past two years we have been working closely with the University of Huddersfield with their Student Design Work Placement Programme and have so far enabled three students to have dedicated full time experience. Our newest full time member of staff was a Work Placement Programme member.

SODA

STEVE OWENS DESIGN ASSOCIATES LIMITED

Our present workload is % Punch Taverns Investment and without this dedication and commitment to refurbishment our company would not exist.

It is without doubt that our business would be significantly affected by a decrease in activity from Punch Taverns and would see reduction in staff levels immediately.

The Industry supported by Punch Taverns is vast and currently growing. We have seen first hand how many young apprentices are now working within the industry and how many trainees are working within Punch premises.

From a refurbishment and development sector the number of tradesmen employed who would be immediately affected range from upholsterers, light fitting manufacturers, paint suppliers, joiners, carpet layers, builders, electricians, plumbing suppliers, structural engineers, glaziers, decorators, plasterers, signage manufacturers, ironmongery manufacturers and suppliers. This list is endless and lest we forget the communities in which Punch Taverns operates and supports.

We urge you to support this great company and work with Punch Taverns to retain a symbolic part of this country.

Yours faithfully

STEVE OWENS
MANAGING DIRECTOR

cc. Mary Creagh MP