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5th June 2013

Dear Dr Vince Cable MP

I understand that your department is currently consulting on the future of the pub companies, and I would like to explain to you our business relationship with Enterprise Inns.

During our 15 years of service with Enterprise Inns, we have noticed a considerable change in the pub industry as a whole, predominantly due to economic issues and change in licensing laws. Even in these unstable times, Enterprise are continuing to invest in their estate and we have been notified of another £ spend to be rolled out next year. For a new or existing publican in the pub trade, without the capital investment made by Enterprise, from experience, we feel the majority of businesses would struggle and the property condition would deteriorate.

A prime example of investment for us would be the

This property is located in a quiet village, with nearby tourist attractions and was formerly a focal point of the area. It has been closed for about a year, but now with an extensive investment of approximately £ from Enterprise and introduction of new local publican, with passion to drive the business, the premises is due to receive a full refurbishment to provide pub, restaurant and letting room facilities. This will reintroduce the traditional pub back into the village and also boost local employment and trade. Without this investment, the premises would certainly fall into a state of disrepair. This is just one example of a number of improvement projects we are undertaking for Enterprise, to drive the pub industry forward.

For us, the construction industry generally is a very difficult environment and has far from recovered from the downturn in economic climate. This puts increasing pressure on our business to procure work and maintain our current staffing levels.

Based in Folkestone, Kent, we oversee approximately Enterprise pubs in the South East area. With regular repairs, maintenance and investment projects on the Enterprise estate, this generates 10% of our business. If a reduction in the level of investment was made by Enterprise, this would have a major impact on our company as a whole and the staff we have specifically employed and trained to look after the contract, would have to be down sized dramatically.

At Brighter Homes, we directly employ forty five members of staff with an additional twenty five regular specialist sub-contractors on a week to week basis. Dedicated to Enterprise, we have a reactive maintenance team providing 24 hour emergency service plus multiple construction crews for larger repair and refurbishment projects.

Enterprise runs a stringent health and safety policy, with an independent company assigned to cross check our paperwork and on site safety performance. To back this up, as a company, we have invested heavily in training for our operatives, so as to meet all required criteria and endeavor to maintain a high standard of workmanship on all projects. We are also audited on a regular basis as part of our Partnering Contractor agreement, to ensure value for money to both Enterprise and their publicans.

I hope this clarifies our position with Enterprise and the impact it would have on our business, should any reductions be made within the pub industry

Yours sincerely

Scott Lee
Director