

Comments on the consultation *Sumner*

Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
Dept for Business, Innovation and Skills
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29 MAY



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21st May 2013

Dear Dr Cable,

Re: Government Consultation Pub Companies and Tenants April 2013

I wish to make you aware of my own thoughts with regards to the above consultation. Willows Building Maintenance Service (Lincoln) Limited is a smallish local construction firm that operates throughout the East Midlands that provides reactive maintenance to a number of national company's and Punch Taverns being one of them.

We are an approved contractor for Punch Taverns and a number of its subsidiary companies and have been for the last 16 years providing services ranging from an emergency call out to a full refurbishment of an outlet. Punch Taverns is an important and growing part of our business (circa 20%). It has allowed us to invest in our company and create sustainable employment for both experienced operatives and enabled us to provide work experience placements for younger people.

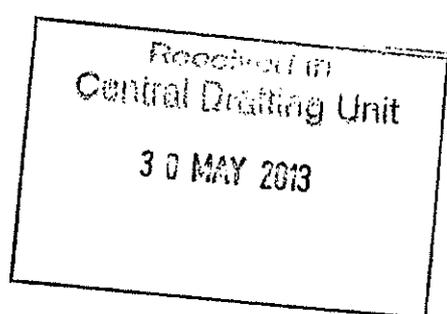
As a company we have grown over the years and Punch Taverns have played a large part in this both with increasing amount of Purchase Orders being raised to ourselves and have been very supportive and helping us with achieving new qualifications and accreditations to ensure that we maintain our approved status. This has also helped us increase our client base; however Punch Taverns is one of our main clients.

Over the years since we have been working with Punch Taverns we have seen a number of changes ranging from ensuring their contractors/suppliers are of the very highest standard and are vetted yearly, also seeing the fact that they need to invest more money in keeping pubs open, opening closed pubs and ensure that they have highly motivated, innovative and suitably rewarded entrepreneurs to run their pubs.

If Punch Taverns were to close or sell a number of its outlets we as a company would have no option but to reduce the number of staff that we employ, thus having an impact on fuel purchasing, training, company profits, materials from suppliers, VAT etc. the list can go on.

Yours sincerely,

Kevan Stevenson
Director
Willows Building Maintenance Service (Lincoln) Limited



cc. Karl McCartney – Lincoln MP