

Pubs Consultation
Consumer and Competition Policy
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
3rd Floor, Orchard 2
1 Victoria Street
Westminster
SW1H 0ET

Email: pubs.consultation@bis.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Sirs

Pub Companies and Tenants – Government Consultation

We refer to the above consultation and attach our response to the consultation questions.

We are a national machine supplier with 25,000 machines and 600 staff.

We are responding to this consultation because we are concerned that the impact for the industry of changing the existing operator approval process would in our opinion be significant and the ultimate loser would be the tenant, the treasury, and the machine supply industry.

The level of investment in purchasing new machines would be affected, the volumes manufacturers build would be reduced, and that would affect the numbers of people employed by the manufacturers resulting in the loss of jobs.

The service levels that have been developed for both the managed and tenanted Pub Companies would change. The tenants benefit from the service levels agreements that are in place with the approved operators. In our opinion machine supply would go back to pre-1968 before the Gambling Act. We believe that lots of one man band operators would emerge offering illegal machines poor levels of service etc. Again, jobs would be lost within the regulated operator industry

We believe that Gambling needs to be regulated and controlled; the existing operator approval process ensures these controls are in place and this does give the tenant choice.

Regulated suppliers invest in their training, health and safety and ensure that all necessary insurance levels are maintained, this would not be the case in a free for all.

Additionally an audit trail exists within the current supply chain, enabling checks on MGD and VAT. This would be lost if unregulated suppliers were allowed into the system.

We would be pleased to provide further evidence and clarification. Please acknowledge receipt of this response.

Yours faithfully

Peter Weir
Chief Executive