

Consultation  
Comments *Sumner*

29 MAY 2013



Eurosaf UK

Construction Safety Consultants, CDM Co-ordinators and Asbestos Surveyors  
www.eurosafeuk.co.uk

Received in  
Central Drafting Unit

30 MAY 2013

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

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013

Dear Sir,

**Re: Government Consultation Pub Companies and Tenants April 2013**

Eurosafe UK are a long established independent Health and Safety Consultancy employing in excess of fifty people and working on a national basis for numerous well known high street retailers, pub companies, restaurant groups, housing associations and police authorities.

We have worked with Punch Taverns since 1999 as their Health and Safety Consultants, providing a range of property related services. We also act as their Asbestos Consultants. In all instances our role has been to assist Punch to comply with all their duties under the current Regulations. This is something that Punch takes very seriously and over the years we have been involved in numerous projects to improve their properties and ensure compliance.

Several years ago, when many companies were still ignoring the issue, Punch embarked on a programme to carry out Asbestos Surveys over a period of time on all their properties, ensuring that everyone including their tenants were aware of any potential risks. Over the years we have also carried out Asbestos Awareness Training not only for the Punch Property Team but also for the designers and contractors working on their properties to raise awareness. On Punch's behalf we host an Asbestos Register that all designers and contractors that may be called in to work on Punch's properties have access to, via the internet.

This type of national support where everyone involved has access to vital information is not always evident in the independent pub trade. Too often individuals are either unaware of their duties or are often unwilling to accept them. We are frequently made aware of independent pub businesses that have little idea of the current regulations. As a large pub company, Punch are able to negotiate excellent rates for a first class service for services and products on a national basis at favourable rates which their tenants can benefit from.

In our role as CDM Co-ordinator to Punch we have also seen the vast amount of investment projects that Punch have undertaken over the years, not only to maintain their properties but to potentially improve the environment and business potential for their tenants. Punch are currently Eurosafe UK's largest client in terms of turnover which requires us to work together with a large number of contractors and designers

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to ensure that their properties are maintained and regularly improved. As a result of using a network of designers and contractors previously 'approved' to work on Punch projects, and with ourselves providing Health and Safety support, this all takes place within a regulated and safe environment.

The whole ethos of working as part of a team to have a significant impact on improving the working environment in a large number of pubs and potentially improving their profitability is only possible when someone is pulling it all together. In this case the pub company – Punch Taverns.

Should the findings of the Consultation alter the existing arrangements where everyone is operating as a team to improve the working environment with the pub business, there could be a significant impact on both standards of safety and levels of employment particularly within the already hard hit construction industry, as well as within the pub industry itself.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Downie  
**Director**

cc: Julian Sturdy MP  
Member of Parliament for York Outer