

From:
Sent: 22 April 2013 15:28
To: Pubs Consultation Responses
Subject: Beer tie consultation



Dear Sirs,

I work for a large pub company (I do not wish to disclose which one) and to be frank am extremely disappointed with this decision. Tied / free of tie lease agreements is NOT the reason why pubs are failing in my area and across the country. This is the simple fact;

It is approximately 8x cheaper to drink at home than it is to drink in a public house.

This is due to the off trade Supermarkets discounting drinks at a ridiculous rate (which the Government has failed to act upon given the recent minimum pricing policy rejection) and the beer duty escalator/VAT charged on each pint served in the on-trade. These factors have driven the cost of serving a pint up to such an extent that the industry is no longer viable.

Solving the pub crisis is not rocket science, and the Government is focusing on completely the wrong issue to gain some PR points. To properly address the issue the Government needs to look in the mirror and identify the route cause.

Having read Vince Cable's Executive Summary, not once did he mention these factors as a cause of the rapid decline in the pub trade, which is an oversight of such magnitude that the rest of the consultation document, to be frank, is not worth reading.

The Government has a real chance to make a difference here, but this proposal falls well short of the mark. When the issues above are rectified and pubs have a fair platform from which to compete with supermarkets, then the tie issue is worth considering. However, until that happens there is little point in setting up a Government panel to be paid for by the already struggling pub companies which will fail to make any difference to pub failure rates at all.

Your sincerely

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