

Dear Sir / Madam,

BIS' Consultation on a Statutory Code governing Pub Companies and Brewers operating Leased and Tenanted Pubs

I write in response to your request for views on the government consultation detailed above. I am an employee of Admiral Taverns, which owns c1,050 leased and tenanted pubs in England and Wales.

I do not believe that a statutory code backed by a Government appointed regulator is necessary or that it would be a positive step for the pub industry. In PIRRS and PICAS we already have oversight and dispute resolution services staffed by independent experts. Additional government regulation would be costly, add a further layer of bureaucracy to an already heavily regulated industry, and seems entirely unnecessary for a company such as Admiral, which has never had a rent review referred to PIRRS or legal settlement, or any other licensee complaint referred to PICAS. In addition, the potential exemption for companies with less than 500 pubs on the basis that they attract fewer complaints appears entirely arbitrary, when we with over 1,000 pubs have had no complaints.

The Statutory Code proposals centre on the principles of 'fair and lawful dealing' and 'the tied tenant should be no worse off than the free of tie'. Admiral already treats its licensees fairly and lawfully, and we do not abuse the tie, it is simply not in our interests to do so. We work in partnership with our licensees to create businesses that are sustainable for both the licensee and the company, offering a low-cost, supportive entry route into an industry in which many individuals would otherwise be unable to gain a foothold.

I hope that my views and the facts that underpin these views will be given due consideration by the Committee. I do not work for a company that engages in the 'frankly, exploitative financial practices' that the government consultation paper appears to suggest characterise the pubcos, and for Admiral to be pigeon-holed as such will inevitably be detrimental to our licensees, ourselves, and the wider pub sector.

Yours sincerely,