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**From:****Sent:** 14 June 2013 17:37**To:** Pubs Consultation Responses; . @parliament.uk)**Subject:** BIS Pubs Consultation

Dear and Pubs Consultation / BIS

I write to add my voice to the many opinions that are being expressed as we approach the deadline for submissions. There is a real danger, as in any polarised debate, that the opinions getting most exposure are not always entirely representative. It is worth remembering that complex issues are not black and white and that reality is often much more nuanced. It is simply not true that 'big is bad' and that blame can be lazily attributed at a pub co when, for instance there is a pub business failure – there will always be a host of reasons at play. It is especially tempting to look for easy answers in the wrong places when the wider economic conditions (credit squeeze, taxation burden, rating system, red tape, high utility costs to name but a few) conspire to such a great extent against the fortunes of the UK's pubs.

The question that BIS is seeking to answer is whether there should be statutory intervention in the way Pub Cos conduct themselves. This would, in my opinion, extend the role of government far too far into a commercial arena without adequate justification. This does not ignore the fact that pubs play an important part in their communities and in society as a whole. In fact it is entirely correct that the interests of Pub Cos, Publicans and communities share much common ground, in that we all want pubs to prosper. The natural balancing of mutual interest in an open market should ensure that pubs are set up to succeed and prosper, and self-regulation assists this process. Statutory regulation cannot bring any tangible value to that balance. Self-regulation is working (and needs to continue to prove that it is working). There is no need to intervene any further, we as an industry just need to be able to get on with what we do.

Yours sincerely



Enterprise Inns plc, 3 Monkspath Hall Road, Solihull, West Midlands, B90 4SJ  
T: 0121 733 7700 | F: 0121 733 6447 | [www.enterpriseinns.com](http://www.enterpriseinns.com)

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