

Dear Caroline Flint MP,
 Vince Cable, MP
 Toby Perkins, MP
 Martin Vickers, MP
 Austin Mitchell, MP
 Nik Dakin, MP
 Paul Blomfield, MP
 Kevin Barron, MP
 Clive Betts, MP
 David Blunkett, MP
 Natascha Engle, MP
 Nick Clegg, MP
 Meg Munn, MP

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

June 11th 2013

I would be very grateful if you would take the time to read my letter, and send me a response

I am a (Operations –) for Enterprise Inns plc, responsible for approximately pubs and Publicans. I have been in this role since January 2008. I am therefore working for the one of the largest leased and tenanted Pub Cos which is regularly publicly targeted for abusing its tenants. I write this letter in a personal capacity and it does not reflect the views of, nor is it sanctioned by, my employer.

I have found my company to be highly professional, and my company is regularly bestowed with Human Resource and training awards; Enterprise Inns currently hold 'Investors in People' recognition.

I do struggle at times to understand how government legislation and local council support fails to embrace the business community, especially the pubs that I operate. Examples of this are:-

- Business rates – No recognition of the community role of the pub and failings to support rate appeals with pace, working on a transitional approach that does support the immediate needs of the pubs
- No recognition that consumer lifestyles have changed and since 2007 the growth of the Supermarket trade, in house entertainment, failure by councils to support external drinking areas
- An explosion of business legislation and licensing requirements, in the main resulting in more costs attributed to the running of a public house
- Recessionary conditions, resulting in tighter consumer spending and less frequent pub visits
- Failure to support the BMA recommendation of minimum pricing which would support the On Trade

I recognise the role of the pub and the landlord being the bastion of the community and holding a role that supports local charities, a place for the community to bond and meet new friends and to also understand better the community that they live in. In addition the pub is a place to drink sensibly and safely.

In the current environment, I believe Enterprise rarely treats its tenants unfairly, and in the process of dispute investigation, if found to have done so, we do not hide but seek to make immediate amends. In 2013, there is no culture of tenant-bullying, or of hiding from any of our mistakes, – it's neither in our financial nor political interest.

Finally, to mistreat tenants is not morally acceptable either in Enterprise Inns. Enterprise Inns' employees from top to bottom are no different to anybody of people, be they politicians, Publicans or the general public. Moreover, our moral compass has been formally and publicly calibrated by the introduction in the past few years of our Code of Practice promises around fairness – to which we are completely committed. I invite any reader of this letter, be they a politician or whomever, to come out in trade with me and meet Enterprise Publicans and discuss their relationship with Enterprise Inns.

I am proud of who I am, the job I do, the company I work for. Statutory regulation in the Pubco model is populist meddling by those who probably mean well but who invariably do not understand the business they wish to regulate. It is unsupported by balanced evidence and argument, and is weakened by a crassly biased consultation document which simplistically characterises the Pubcos as evil and is notably devoid of open and non-leading questions. Such regulation will prove to be extremely costly for a marketplace that cannot bear the burden, will bring little benefit to anybody. Unfortunately it will certainly mean less investment and more pub and Publican failures across my region that covers from

Yours sincerely,

Enterprise Inns