

Pub Consultation,
Consumer & Competition Policy
Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
3rd floor, Orchard 2
1 Victoria Street
Westminster
SW 1H 0ET

1st June 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write as an experienced Business Development Manager with
Admiral Taverns with over 20 years of trade knowledge.
I am gravely concerned over the current consultation into
the industry and its consequences. Namely that poorly
thought out and 'knee-jerk' legislation will harm
the industry and lead to further pub closures and blight
more communities.

As an experienced BDM I have seen the industry change
significantly over the past 2 decades and recognise
that on occasion pub companies could be seen to be
holding onto 'past glories' and not fully taking into
account the significant economic change. These very
large and mainly publically owned companies have
been warned and shamed and undoubtedly brought
about the introduction of the industry voluntary
code of practice (IFC).

As a consequence of the IFC, it is my experience
that relationships are growing stronger between

licensee and Pub Company. Canvassing opinion of friends and colleagues throughout the industry, this seems to be the case. I'll be honest, the IFC has brought about few changes at Admiral Taverns, as we were already attaining these standards and our relationship with the vast majority of our licensees is strong. This is reflected in the fact that Admiral Taverns was recently awarded the title of 'Pub Company Of The Year' by the Publican's MA Newspaper. We also reflect well in the 'tenant touch' surveys which canvass opinion of all main pub companies.

We have never had a complaint to the independent self-regulator or had any rents go to external appeal. As such I am bemused as to the current treatment of Admiral Taverns, just because we are a company of 1000 pubs.

Some recommendations to press would threaten a number of my smaller web led community pubs and change the relationship I have with the licensees from support and advocate to that of 'rent collector'. This is of benefit to no-one in an industry filled with red-tape and high taxation.

I would be happy to meet at one of my pubs to highlight the strong and positive relationship Admiral Taverns has with it's tenants.

Yours Sincerely,