
Sent: 14 June 2013 09:48

To: @parliament.uk; Enquiry Enquiry (Other Government Departments)

Subject: BIS Consultation

Dear & Mr Cable

I am writing to express concern over the continual attack on our business.

The pub has been at the centre of our communities, towns and cities for many years. The purpose of the pub is to eat, drink and be merry, a welcome retreat at the end of a busy day or week, a place to visit and eat to save someone washing the dishes.

In the last few years this has become less so:

- Large supermarkets and their 'cheap' alcohol offers
- The smoking ban
- Huge increases in the price of a pint

Have all played a big part in driving consumers away from the pub.

Who I ask myself, has been ultimately responsible for controlling the 3 points above? Simple – the government.

Yet now that same government is continually attacking an organisation I have worked in since 1999. What we do is simple – we rent out pubs to people who want to run their own business with low ingoing/start up costs. The rent is based on the tie – sometimes discounted, sometimes not, depending on the type of business and demographics of the target market. The deal is agreed at the outset and all publicans are asked to seek independent financial, legal and property advice before signing anything.

Our absolute ultimate aim is for our publicans to be successful, if they are not, we are not.

We as an organisation will continue to support our publicans with free training, advice on marketing, guidance on the right offer, changes in legislation that affect the pub, refurbishments, property investment and finally a shoulder to lean on when things are tough.

By all means help us become better at what we do, advise and support us, recognise the many things we do well, but please stop this unhelpful and continual attack on our business.

Yours faithfully