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**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** FW: Response to pubs consultation - lynx 338873

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 14 June 2013 12:13  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: UK GOV.CONULTATION PUB COMPANIES & TENANTS

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**From:** [mailto: @enterpriseinns.com]  
**Sent:** 14 June 2013 07:34  
**To:**  
**Subject:** UK GOV.CONULTATION PUB COMPANIES & TENANTS

Dear

I am writing to you as my MP. I am employed in the Pub sector & want to give you my views with regards to this consultation. I have been in the Catering & Drinks Industry for nearly 40 years, the last 18 in the Managed, Leased and Tenanted Pub sector. I have also owned & operated my own Leased Pub.

I have seen many changes to our industry and seen the challenges it has faced & the challenges it still faces due to consumer and economic change and the high tax environment in which we operate.

I believe the British pub and the people who work in and run them provide an invaluable service to our communities and contribute greatly to our economy.

This consultation is to decide whether the Government should establish a statutory code and appoint an independent adjudicator. This in my opinion is a step too far, the reason I feel strongly about this is that Government Regulation in a free market economy should only be used as a last resort in any matter. Our Industry already has in place a similar framework and we have a Code of Practice (COP) which was introduced following the last parliamentary enquiry. This COP deals with areas such as rent, dispute procedures and many other areas of running a pub. We also have PIRRS (to cover rental disputes)) and PICASS for areas where Publicans feel that the COP is not

being adhered too. The COP is a powerful and binding document which has been implemented and is adhered to.

I believe that much of the information being supplied in this debate is misleading and incomplete & does not help find the right solutions for the issues we face in the Leased and Tenanted pub sector .

I work for Enterprise Inns & I work hard supporting our pubs & publicans. We have introduced new agreements and support packages aimed at meeting the needs of the Publicans of today. I currently cover

. I spend much of my time listening to Publicans and what troubles them, this ranges from supermarkets with low prices to managed chains discounting drink and food, both of which they compete against.

The most common complaints I hear are about the combined Tax Burden of Excise Duty , VAT , Rates & Employment Taxes & the cost of compliance with Red Tape. Most of these affect not only my pub businesses but the High Street generally , look at the number of closed shops nationally and locally....., there are some 15 closed shops To Let in alone. I understand that the UK Tax Burden for customer facing retail business is some 59% against a tax burden for business generally of 39%. Why? From an economic perspective it is these retail business which together provide high levels of employment in an otherwise increasingly automated economy, and this employment cannot be outsourced or offshored. It can however be lost.

In my meetings with Publicans the level of rent and the price of beer form part of my discussions but our Publicans recognise that our business model provides a low cost of entry into the pub business & allows them to run their own business, something which they would not be able to do otherwise .

Government can & should help our Industry by addressing the way Business Rates for public houses are assessed. The VAT rate is also too onerous and should be reduced for the our industry not least because pubs now also compete for custom with the attractions of staying at home & drinking low taxed drink . If help and assistance is given in these areas it would be a step in the right direction.

You are a busy man but I would like to offer to meet you to be able to discuss face to face what I believe this industry needs.

Statutory regulation is not the answer.

Yours sincerely



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