

Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable,
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

5th June 2012

Dear Dr Cable,

Re: Government Consultation Pub Companies and Tenants April 2013

I took out an 10 year lease with punch taverns 12 months ago, and it would be fair to say that from the onset we have faced challenges firstly with the implementation of the beer duty escalator/business rates & vat. However I feel the biggest challenge we face is cheap accessible alcohol from supermarkets.

With regards the Pub Co, my experience in dealing with Punch Taverns has been really positive. I never wanted to purchase a free house & whilst the beer is more expensive than the wholesaler, the range of products is vast, which has enabled me to cater for all of my customers. Punch also subscribes to SIBA's DDS scheme allowing us the opportunity to put local beers on our bar and further supporting local breweries in the process. This is a massive bonus and selling point which supports both the pub and local breweries in providing jobs.

In truth, without the option of a lease with a pub company the barriers to entry and level of debt, if indeed one could get a loan, that would be required would make it impossible for me to take on pubs and run them. It is important to take a considered look at Pub Co's individually, I'm sure that as with all industries there are good and bad examples, as they are all very different. I would not hesitate to recommend them to others and in fact I am currently in the process of securing a further two long term lease agreements with Punch Taverns.

As mentioned the many challenges to running pubs and costs, red tape, tax, licensing, off trade price competition, punitive threats from licensing authorities and demonization of pubs rather as causing drunkenness and disorder rather than seeing them as a regulated and proper place to consume alcohol. These and many more issues are unrelated to Pub Companies and to me are much more pressing in the day to day running of a pub. Such issues could be addressed by government if they want to support this sector of the economy.

Rt. Hon Dr Vince Cable
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
Dept for Business, Innovation and Skills

Dear Rt. Hon Dr Vince Cable

Re: Government Consultation Pub Companies and Tenants April 2013

I would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of my experience as a publican.

I took out an agreement 2 years ago with punch taverns, and it would be fair to say that from the onset we have faced challenges firstly with the fall out of the smoking ban, then not forgetting the beer duty escalator/business rates & vat. However I feel the biggest challenge we face is cheap accessible alcohol from supermarkets.

I appreciate that that the beer is expensive; however at least if sold in a pub it is in a controlled environment with strict guidelines i.e. underage drinking/alcohol abuse etc.

I feel that if the government is really interested in this trade these are the issues that they need to address.

Throughout our tenancy Punch have worked with us to try and make a success of the business, providing additional support during the hardest times. I am also delighted to say they completed an investment to the property to boost my business in these tough times

Sincerely,