

"Re: Government Consultation Pub Companies and Tenants April 2013"

Dear Dr. Cable

I have been a Punch Taverns lessee for 5 years, at the pub above and as a single parent of 2 young girls; the experience has been a tough one especially considering the economic history of the past 4 years including the smoking ban which devastated trade.

Punch Taverns have supported me with rent concessions, my purchase of the fixtures and fittings was spread over 2 years without interest and they have given on-going help with beer deliveries when cash flow was short and again spread the payments over a number of weeks.

This help has enabled us to invest in our business, adding letting rooms, expanding our website and improving our trade.

I have an excellent working relationship with both my very experienced and knowledgeable Regional Business Manager, who I have been with for 3 years which has undoubtedly helped with continuity, and my credit assistant who I am in weekly conversation with.

What I would really like is to see is some Governmental support for small businesses, help or control over utility companies to stop their profiteering charges and a graduation of VAT, lower scale on small businesses and higher on multinationals. This would improve our cash flow, allowing more employment and therefore putting more money back into local economy.

I am very friendly with other lessee's and am aware that not all Pub Companies operate the same but I have to say that my relationship with Punch has been very good.

Yours Sincerely