

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

2nd June 2013

Dear Mr Cable

Re: Consultations of Pub Companies and Tenants April 2013

I have been the landlady of [redacted], Newbury, for nearly 4 years with the partnership of Punch Taverns. When I first entered this pub, it was extremely dilapidated, worn out and lacking control.

I knew I could physically fix the cliental, reputation and increase growth of this wonderful community pub but what I couldn't do was a major refurbishment, pay for POS, menu changes, glassware support, umbrellas, incentives for staff and customers, support on income growth and more. This is where if it wasn't for Punch Partnerships my business would not be growing today.

Last year Punch fronted a [redacted] refurbishment for the outside of the building including the financial support of a brand new menu change. This alone has given us the chance to stay afloat in this ever testing financial environment.

When I decided to work in partnership with Punch, I willingly took on the fact that I would be tied to certain products as part of the agreement. I accepted this because I knew no bank or lender would ever look at taking me on to buy a freehold, never mind look after the best interests of me and the pub. But without these certain ties, punch would not have had the funding to support my pub and many other different pubs.

Small businesses, like myself, need the backing and the support from the pub companies because there is no-one else out there that is willing to help us.

In my opinion if you are looking to help these small pub businesses succeed and save the closures of more pubs up and down the country why not look at lowering our tax on beer, and gain more control over supermarket discounting. It is these 2 factors alone that make running a true British community pub, which can more than often be the soul of the community, increasingly harder.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I hope to hear a response from you in the near future.

Yours Sincerely