

June 4, 2013

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 8 year lease with punch taverns 6 years ago, and it would be fair to say that from the onset we have faced challenges firstly with the implementation 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 dying 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 have agreed further investment to the property to boost my business in these tough times

Sincerely,