
From: (CCP) on behalf of Pubs Consultation Responses
Sent: 19 June 2013 17:10
To: Pubs Consultation Responses
Subject: FW: Government Consultation letter sent to Sir Alan Haslehurst
Attachments: Government Consultation.rtf

| Consumer & Markets | Consumer & Competition Policy | Department for
Business, Innovation & Skills | [@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gsi@bis.gov.uk) | T:+44 (0) 20 7215 ;
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The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is making a difference by supporting sustained growth and higher skills across the economy. BIS: working together for growth

From:
Sent: 05 June 2013 17:48
To: Enquiry Enquiry (Other Government Departments)
Subject: Government Consultation letter sent to Sir Alan Haslehurst

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached a letter sent today to Sir Alan Haslehurst.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

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09/12/2013

VAT REGISTRATION NUMBER :

4th June 2013

For The Attention Of: Sir Alan Haselhurst MP

Dear Sir Alan,

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

Regarding the ongoing pubco beer tie issue I would like to express my professional and personal concerns:

We as a family took over 3 years ago on a 25 year lease from Punch Partnerships Limited, upon signing a substantial investment was promised to improve the character of a beautiful 16th century building which had become very tired and unkept, not only was a complete refurbishment, our patio area relandscaped, but all the electrical/gas works were fully tested and a fire alarm system was installed, safety was our main priority not only for our customers but for my young family. We would never have been able to afford all this, but with this investment we felt confident that we could bring the into the 21st Century without destroying the character. We have since been awarded a Quality Service Award.

I feel the current recession and the government have made it very difficult for publicans to succeed due to;

1. The beer duty escalator. Customers don't understand that beer/wine is reduced with on hand but added on in another!!!
2. Challenges facing most small businesses,
 - Business rates, which is over a quarter of our monthly rent! (Might also mention that we also have to pay domestic rates just for the pleasure of living on site, but one has to for security reasons.)
 - VAT (wasn't 20% a temporally measure).
3. But, my main concern is the competition from supermarkets, where alcohol is being sold up to a 1/4 of the price which I can sell at. Therefore I was extremely

disappointed when the government's proposal for a minimum pricing of alcohol was scraped this would have helped even the price gap between supermarkets and pubs.

I also express my concerns about the drinking culture in this country because of extremely low priced alcohol being sold by supermarket, it makes binge drinking affordable. In my opinion drinking in pubs, bars and restaurants is a good thing because licensees can control the consumption of alcohol and if required report any anti social behaviour to the authorities. Myself and fellow publicans in [redacted] regularly attend Pub Watch meetings together with the local licensing authority and police to prevent such anti social behaviour we as a group operate a behave our be barred scheme (BOBB).

Last but no means least the promises of help from the government regarding small businesses in the last budget was very welcome but more help is needed to protect our public houses, after all we have some of the most beautiful traditional houses in the world, what a shame they are closing daily. Had it not been for the help of Punch Taverns and the continued help and support from our area manger I would hate to think where the [redacted] would be today? "The Bank wouldn't help"!

Many thanks for taking the time to read my comments,

Kind regards, Yours

sincerely,

[redacted]