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From: _____
Sent: 05 June 2013 16:59
To: Enquiry Enquiry (Other Government Departments)
Cc: george.eusticomp@parliament.uk
Subject: Re: Pubco

Dear sir

In light of the recent pubco discussion that the government are currently having I feel it necessary to add my view on this matter.

As a member of the pubco group Punch Taverns I have to express my satisfaction with them and share my concern if the reforms that are being proposed go through.

I have recently taken a Punch Taverns owned public house having spent years working for a holding company and free lance pub manager but have now gone alone as a 'Tenant at Will'.

Punch Taverns made this possible for me to enter the trade and take the pub on in this capacity with financial support by giving me a reduction in rent, a discounted price on my stock acquisitions and have offered nothing but support from the onset. Had they not done this my pub, the oldest pub in _____ The _____ could well

be another statistic of closed pubs in this country.

Pubco's offer an individual help and direction when required, they also give opportunity to increase sales with promotions and trade fairs where you are able to gain advice, further promotions and opportunities to see new products and talking directly to representatives from all areas of the trade. I have been given direction in areas of the trade that I didn't know about thanks to the support from my area manager.

On occasion when things go wrong with equipment etc these issues are dealt with by Punch at no cost to me, yet would be if not under their ownership.

I think that it is important that you should be made aware that if this support was not available to me I like many others in my position simply would not be trading as a sole operative. I also believe that having worked as a holding manager in both pubco and free trade properties I can honestly say that working under pubco banner is far easier! I have witnessed on many occasions the 'romance' of owning your own pub, go drastically wrong due to not understanding the trade or having the support and direction given by pubco companies such as Punch.

My concern is that if these proposals go through then Punch and many other pubco groups would then effectively just be a property landlord, offering no support to their tenant or the business that trades within that property. I believe that without the support that pubco's offer to tenants more not less pubs will close as many tenants simply won't be able to cope with the financial demands of being a lone trader. Pubs such as mine that are smaller outlets in the community steeped in tradition would have to close without a pubco's backing.

I hope that the government do not jump on the bandwagon of bad press that often surrounds pubco companies and view the trade with an open mind. A poorly run business will fail, inexperienced traders without direction will more often fail. People such as myself that don't have enough financial resources to stand on my own (of which there are many I'm sure) would have to cease trading in this industry without the support that Punch Taverns give me.

If reform is to actioned I hope that the government take a sensible and fully informed view on the matter before enforcing a radical change to the trade I work in.

Thankyou for you time

Regards