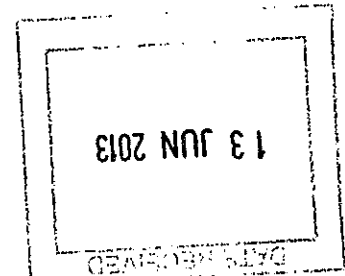


May 2013

RT Hon Dr. Vince Cable  
Secretary of State for Business Innovations and Skills  
Dept. for Business Innovations and Skills

cc.



Dear Mr Cable,

**Re: Government Consultation Pub Companies and Tenants April 2013.**

As a lessee of Punch Taverns, I would like to offer my support to my Pub co and the relationship I have with my business manager. We have run the pub for 21 years and we have a tied lease agreement which Punch inherited when they purchased the pub. As a tied lessee, I enjoy a positive working relationship with my Pub co and my business manager supports me with sales driving ideas, product information and charity support which is so important when running a community pub. The myth that all tied leases are the work of the devil is just that, a myth and we are confused as to why your committee thinks that all tied lessees are unhappy? The fact is we are not. We operate in a very difficult economic environment and it is true to say that many pubs are closing. You will know from your research that more free houses close than tied pubs, and this is due to the lack of support free houses have. When times are good, my pub co lets me do my job and when times are hard, they are there to support me. I would not want to operate a free house in these economic times. If you want to intervene in the pub industry, reduce the beer duty so we can sell more of our products to our customers in a very secure environment. That way, I can employ more bar staff who will pay you more in tax. The pub industry is heavily regulated already and quite rightly I might add, however you let supermarkets sell very cheap alcohol for vulnerable people to consume in an unregulated environment such as the home; I think your focus is therefore misguided. There is nothing wrong with a well run tied pub lease, so please leave us alone.

Regards,

