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14 JUN 2013

May 2013

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

cc.

Received in
Central Drilling Unit

17 JUN 2013

Dear Mr Cable,

Re: Government Consultation Pub Companies and Tenants April 2013.

I am aware of some bad press Pub companies are receiving and would like to offer my support for mine. and I have a tied lease agreement with Punch Taverns, and have run successfully for 9 years specialising in cask ales. We chose to work in the leased and tenanted pub sector because it allows us the ability to run our own business with a relatively low cost of entry; we could not afford to buy a free house for example, nor do we want to work for other people. In recent years pub companies have been the victim of bad press, this bad press is clearly the view of some people, but not all. We have been struggling recently with the economic climate in our local area where a number of large employees have closed down resulting in a significant number of job losses; this has had a direct impact on our trade.

When times have been hard, Punch listened when we asked for help and our business manager reduced our rent, firstly by way of temporary support to get us back on our feet and then permanently by changing the terms of our lease. We are grateful for this support and dread to think what would have happened if we paid a mortgage to a bank rather than rent to a pub company. A bank would have repossessed the property and sold it to clear debt. Our business manager has also offered us other financial support options such as purchasing our fixtures and fittings from us to improve cash flow; we have not accepted this support at the moment but know it is there if we need it in time. This positive relationship works well and it is more common than you may think. We hope that other pub operators also write to you, so you can get a feel for what it is really like in the world of pub companies.

Yours sincerely,