

22nd May 2013.

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PUB COMPANIES AND
TENANTS APRIL 2013

The Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP.

Dear Sir.

I wish to voice my opinion of the proposed changes to the Pub and liquor industries. I am a licensee with over 43 years of experience, and I have run every type of outlet throughout my service. I am at present a Punch leaseholder at the above outlet; I have been here for nearly 6 years and have experienced sales and profit growth EVERY year. I have invested over 70k in the premises, and I am happy to do so and will continue as long as my rent and business rates are of a manageable nature. I have been associated with Punch and their predecessors for over 20 years, and whereas they have not been the perfect partners, they have given me the opportunities over the years to operate some of their very valuable sites and produce good profits for both sides. We would all like to own a large prominent freehold Pub, but I

and many of my fellow licencees are not able to finance these.

We are all able to negotiate with our Pub companies various trading deals, should we wish to do so. I was operating Pubs when the Government last interfered in an industry they know nothing about, when they introduced "The Beer orders" and in my opinion devastated a fantastic unique business. All retail outlets have suffered over the past 4 years ,some more than others, but what my industry needs more than anything ,is not a new set of laws forcing both sides into conflict, but strong legislation to control supermarkets and retail outlets selling alcohol at ridiculously cheap prices. We all have to sharpen up in these trying times, the pub companies have to employ directors who actually know about Pubs, the government needs to talk to the sharp end of the industry, and above all we as licencees have to improve our sales and marketing techniques. I am very happy with being a Punch lessee and I hope to continue for many years to come. So leave the Pub industry alone, and stop hammering us with huge tax and duty increases, because you are damaging beyond repair a great British institution.

Yours Most Sincerely

Pub Landlord