



# Pubs Code Adjudicator

Office of the Pubs Code Adjudicator  
Lower Ground  
Victoria Square House  
Victoria Square  
Birmingham  
B2 4AJ  
Email: [office@pca.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:office@pca.gsi.gov.uk)

18 January 2018

Dear XXX

Thank you for your emails, received on 22 December 2017 and 9 January 2018, in which you requested information from the office of the Pubs Code Adjudicator (PCA) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 entitles you to:

- know whether the information you have requested is held by the PCA; and
- be provided with that information, subject to any exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which may apply.

In your email dated 22 December 2017, you requested the following information:

*1) How many meetings both official and non-official have happened between Paul Newby and Punch Taverns / any of Punch Taverns representatives i.e. somebody who is receiving a wage / dividend or a significant shareholder since the 30th November 2016.*

*2) How many meetings both official and non-official have happened between any member of staff employed by the PCA and Punch Taverns / any of Punch Taverns representatives i.e. somebody who is receiving a wage / dividend or a significant shareholder since the 30th November 2016.*

*3) Please confirm how much money the office of the PCA has spent attending roadshows organised by Punch Taverns or Heineken since the PCA has been formed and how many events this equates to.*

I can confirm that the office of the PCA does hold information relevant to your request. The information you have requested is published on the PCA's website and is therefore exempt under section 21 of the Act as it is reasonably available to you.



## Pubs Code Adjudicator

The information you have requested is available in the PCA's published Freedom of Information Act responses at [www.gov.uk/pca](http://www.gov.uk/pca) and includes:

- [summary of events](#) (including attendance fees) attended by the PCA or staff from his office that have been sponsored solely or in part by the pub-owning businesses regulated by the Pubs Code, published 16 November 2017.
- [records of meetings](#) held between the PCA and pub-owning businesses regulated by the Pubs Code between 2 May 2016 and 16 November 2017, published 13 December 2017.

In your email dated 9 January 2018, you additionally requested the agendas of meetings held between the PCA and Punch Taverns representatives on 8 February and 29 September 2017. I can confirm that the office of the PCA does hold information relevant to this request and is attached at Annex A. Some of the information within the scope of your request is however exempt from disclosure under section 31(1)(g) of the Act because the information would or would be likely to prejudice the exercise of the PCA's functions for the purpose specified in section 31(2)(c) of the Act. That purpose is ascertaining whether circumstances which would justify regulatory action in pursuance of any enactment exist or may arise. The PCA has statutory powers to regulate the pub-owning businesses covered by the Pubs Code and information relating to your request relates to the PCA's consideration in respect of regulatory action. Some of the information within the scope of your request has therefore been redacted in accordance with section 31(1)(g) of the Act.

The PCA recognises the public interest in transparency, which assists people in understanding the impact of the Pubs Code since it came into force. The PCA also recognises the importance of holding his public role, as well as those pub-owning businesses regulated by the Pubs Code, to account. However, the PCA considers there to be a greater public interest in preserving the confidentiality of certain information discussed at these meetings because of its consideration in respect of regulatory action.

It may be helpful to explain the context of the meetings held between the PCA and pub-owning businesses covered by the Pubs Code. The PCA has been appointed to fulfil a number of statutory functions, these include arbitrating Pubs Code disputes and regulating the Pubs Code. The legal framework envisages these roles will be undertaken by the PCA and are not mutually exclusive from each other. As a regulator, the PCA meets chief executives from each of the regulated pub-owning businesses on a bilateral basis to enforce the Pubs Code. Individual arbitration cases remain confidential and are not discussed at these meetings.

If you consider that the office of the PCA has not provided an appropriate response to your request, you are entitled to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request and should be made in writing, quoting the above reference, to [office@pca.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:office@pca.gsi.gov.uk) or:



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If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.



**Annex A – PCA and Punch Taverns meeting agendas**

**PCA and Punch Taverns Meeting**

**08 February 2017, 13.30 – 15.30**

**Agenda**

1	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• aim of the meeting</li><li>• individual introductions</li></ul>
2	Punch Taverns update <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• general matters</li><li>• Pubs Code matters arising</li></ul>
3	Code Compliance Officer meetings report and feedback
4	Pubs Code statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• number and type of enquiries</li><li>• number and type of arbitration referrals</li><li>• statistics for 2016/17 and 2017/18</li></ul>
5	PCA functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• progress of arbitration referrals</li><li>• Independent Assessor appointments</li><li>• investigations</li></ul>
6	PCA Pubs Code issues
7	Compliance management
8	PCA duty to report gaming and Code operation issues
9	Levy arrangements for 2016/17 and 2017/18
10	PCA current priorities
11	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• next meetings</li><li>• other</li></ul>



## PCA and Punch Taverns Meeting

27 September 2017, 10.00-12.00

### Agenda

1	Welcome and purpose of meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>[<i>information redacted in accordance with section 31(1)(g) of the Act</i>]</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>[<i>information redacted in accordance with section 31(1)(g) of the Act</i>]</li><li>Highlighting and sharing good practice across the industry</li></ul>
3	Transitional arrangements for Punch Taverns pubs transferring to Heineken UK (Star Pubs & Bars)
4	POB issues  PCA issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2017/18 levy</li></ul>
5	AOB