

2nd June 2013.

Re: Government Consultation Pub Companies and Tenants April 2013

To the Rt Hon Vince Cable

My husband and I have been Publicans for the past years, this has been both as Managers and Tenants for Taylor Walker, and for the past years with Punch on a lease.

As I understand it you have deep reservations about the ties to Pubcos, with landlords subject to buying overpriced beer and signing unacceptable rental agreements. My experiences with Punch taverns do not reflect this, at all.

When we entered into our present lease we did not have the financial resources to purchase a freehold public house in this area of we made the decision to take a lease. Being seasoned Publicans and experienced business persons, we studied our potential rewards carefully, and we very happy with what we were offered, so we signed.

Over the past years we have had both rent reviews and a new lease. On each occasion Punch have both advised us and taken into consideration all our views. Therefore each party came away from the meetings, satisfied.

Last year due to the recession, Vat rises, beer duty escalators, RPI business rate increases, National Insurance hikes, no minimum pricing on alcohol to give the pub sector a leveller ground with supermarkets selling alcohol at a pittance, massively taxed and with revenues falling, our business was failing, we approached Punch, who then helped us both with cut priced beer and not increasing our rent that was due in our lease. This helped massively, the proof is that we are still in business !

Our relationship with our BDM's is invaluable. It is in Punch Taverns interests to make our business perform as well as possible. They are a barrier between us and the overwhelming regulation and sometimes sheer idiocy of local government, in our case Having a huge organisation with their resources behind you are, invaluable. .

Half my time now I seem to be doing paperwork in an attempt to stop overzealous public sector workers trying to justify their existence rather than progressing my business.

I look at our relationship with Punch Taverns as one that makes my business far easier to run. Online ordering and invoices, help with forms and industry advice. They provide us with a huge amount of professionally printed information catalogues, to guide us through the red tape which is thrust upon us, continuously, by both Central Government and

I have no experience of unfair rental or beer price demands.

Yours sincerely,