

RE: Gov consultation pub companies and tenants  
April 2013

Dear Sirs,

As a publican tenant over the last sixteen years I have had many Punch and Enterprise Inns' Pubs. Since the credit crunch of 2008 I have seen a real change in emphasis and especially in Punch Pub Company's relationships with tenants; they are investing in their pubs and trying to work alongside publicans rather than just collecting rent and beer profits.

The real problem for pubs is that there are too many of them. This could be solved by relaxing planning laws and allowing change of use; a VAT drop on food sales like that enjoyed by Greggs etc; getting a handle on utility companies which have doubled their prices over the last ten years; making supermarkets charge minimum price for alcohol products; separating, via licensing, the high street drinking holes (doing cheap promotions on alcohol) and troublesome night spots, from community and country pubs offering a meeting and social platform which has been the centre of British society for hundreds of years - country pubs never, if not very rarely, require public services in the way that high street bars do, for example police interference or emergency medical assistance.

The Great British pub is under threat from all sides and if we lose this, we will be American – going to 'burger joints in malls'!

Regards,