

Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable,  
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills  
House of Commons,  
London,  
SW1A 0AA

5th June 2012

Dear Dr Cable,

**Re: Government Consultation Pub Companies and Tenants April 2013**

I am writing regarding your consultation regarding pub companies and tenants. My company, [REDACTED] has leases on two pubs, one through Punch Taverns and one through a private landlord. While the terms and conditions are certainly different between the two, including for example a beer tie with Punch, both provide a way of starting a business with low costs of entry that provide a living and profit, as well as employment to a growing number of staff, including a number of younger employees.

The [REDACTED] is a Punch lease and I have been very pleasantly impressed in my dealings with Punch in securing this lease. The site is due to undergo a significant investment which will improve standards, profile and trade at the outlet. Throughout my negotiations on the lease Punch have been very professional, clear on the terms of the lease and what it means, as well as recommending the use of professionals to advise and a comprehensive set of guidance and training.

Punch also subscribes to SIBA's DDS scheme allowing us the opportunity to put local beers on our bar and further supporting local breweries in [REDACTED]. This is a massive bonus and selling point which supports both the pub and local breweries in providing jobs.

In truth, without the option of a lease with a pub company the barriers to entry and level of debt, if indeed one could get a loan, that would be required would make it impossible for me to take on pubs and run them. It is important to take a considered look at Pub Co's individually, I'm sure that as with all industries there are good and bad examples, as they are all very different. I would not hesitate to take another Punch lease on or recommend them to others.

There are many challenges to running pubs and costs, red tape, tax, licensing, off trade price competition, punitive threats from licensing authorities and demonization of pubs rather as causing drunkenness and disorder rather than seeing them as a regulated and proper place to consume alcohol. These and many more issues are unrelated to Pub Companies and to me are much more pressing in the day to day running of a pub. Such issues could be addressed by government if they want to support this sector of the economy.

Yours sincerely