

Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP
Secretary of State
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House of Commons
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Ref: Pubcos

I have been with Punch Taverns for : now and have recently renewed my lease.

Punch have supported me over the last years in various ways, with rent concessions and investments, my Partnership Development Manager is always, willing to support us in growing our business, and are flexible when specific issues become inhibitive, trusting us to have the knowledge of our own trade, they also enable us to have buying power with company's that would not normally offer discounts to small operators.

Blaming Pub Company's for all of the problems experienced in this trade is much the same as blaming every single person for the state of the economy (no matter how much they kept their own house in order). We have watched our margins being eroded year after year since the smoking ban, despite growing our business, this I feel is due to high business rates (with little in return) and increases in Vat and duty, despite having two rent reviews in this period our rent has remained the same.

I feel that the VAT on food, VAT at 20%, cheap alcohol in supermarkets, (we watch people night after night going past with cases of beer, most of which is consumed in parks and on beaches totally unsupervised) are far more damaging to the pub trade. We run an orderly house and will not tolerate, bad/drunken behaviour, we look after our customers and put a lot back into the community. Give us a chance.

Yours truly