

22

From:**Sent:** 24 April 2013 11:22**To:** Pubs Consultation Responses**Cc:** andrew.griffiths.mp@parliament.uk; nigel.adams.mp@parliament.uk;
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contactholmember@parliament.uk; mark.prisk.mp@parliament.uk**Subject:** Pub companies and tenants - A government consultation

Pub companies and tenants - A government consultation

I have completed your questionnaire on the above and copied this e mail to the various MPs.
Obviously it is important to establish a right to

- .<!--[endif]-->Be Free of tie
 - .<!--[endif]-->Have Fair rents
 - .<!--[endif]-->Be able to buy the freehold (similar to the right that leaseholders have in private housing)
- and
have an independent arbiter to ensure this happens
This will take some time to establish

However an immediate consideration should be the power of supermarkets to change our drinking culture, and be the greatest cause of the demise of the British pub.

Alcohol is a potent drug when abused, creating all of the social ills and costs that results from this. It is important that consumption should be regulated/supervised to discourage excess. The pricing policy of supermarkets is the antithesis of this. Cheap alcohol in an unsupervised environment leads to excessive consumption by both adults and, especially important, the young. Pubs suffer as a result from not only declining trade but also excessive consumption of cheap alcohol at home before going out (pre loading) means that pubs then have to deal with the consequences of this. This in turn leads to cultural change when drinking in the community occurs later at night. This creates added costs not only for pubs but also for the community and its services.

Pubs, properly regulated by the existing licensing regime, provide an environment where responsible drinking is properly supervised

The question is " how can government deter the environment of unregulated excessive consumption of cheap supermarket alcohol on the one hand whilst on the other hand supporting pubs which provide the opposite environment.

There are a number of measures which will assist this, of which those noted above are an important part.

In addition to those, the cost of alcohol to the consumer is also an important tool of government. Minimum pricing is crude, it effects all suppliers of alcohol, and will only be effective if set at a level equivalent to that of pub prices.

However other financial measures can also be implemented. Differentials between supermarkets and pubs should be established through a portfolio of measures including

- .<!--[endif]-->The Business rates system
- .<!--[endif]-->VAT
- .<!--[endif]-->The licensing system

Duty on alcohol can also help.

Pubs provide beer through large, cooled and generally pressurised containers. Supermarkets would find it difficult to provide beer in the same way and of the same quality. The duty on beer sold in

such containers should be minimised and the duty on alcohol sold by other means maximised.

I have been a publican for 30 years and urge Parliament to consider the above and any other measures which halts the current march towards the death of the British pub.

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