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From:**Sent:** 19 June 2013 17:16**To:** Pubs Consultation Responses**Subject:** FW: Government Consultation Pub Companies and Tenants 2013

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Innovation & Skills | www.bis.gov.uk

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is making a difference by supporting sustained growth and higher skills across the economy. BIS: working together for growth

From:**Sent:** 04 June 2013 12:44**To:** Enquiry Enquiry (Other Government Departments)**Cc:** t**Subject:** Government Consultation Pub Companies and Tenants 2013

For the attention of Rt. Hon. Dr Vince Cable

I am currently the Tenant of the which is a Punch Taverns property, and would like to take this opportunity to share my experience in the industry with you.

The tenancy model provides the opportunity for people such as myself with limited set up funds to enter the pub trade and start a small business. I have found that although we are tied on some products, the prices are competitive and the services and support we receive far outweigh the difference in price. It is also relevant to say that the deal in which we committed was transparent from the start, and as with the set up of any business we reviewed the business plan in detail with our accountants prior to agreement and with full support of Punch Taverns.

I have a great working relationship with my Business Development Manager, he has supported us greatly in identifying opportunities to realise the full potential of the business, this valuable knowledge and experience of the trade and access to the support network of experts in different aspects of the business would otherwise not be available if we were 'flying solo'.

It is my opinion that government could support small businesses in this sector more, this opinion is based on the following.

Taken from the Labour Force Survey Employment status by occupation, April - June 2003 compared to April - June 2011 from the office of national statistics.

	2003	2011	Difference
Managers	208,000	150,000	58,000
Bar staff / Waiting on Staff	768,000	461,000	307,000

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These job losses are in part caused by the vast rate of pub closures in the last decade which can be attributed to the following.

- Increase in VAT
- Increase in Duty (1p off a pint has cost the government millions of pounds, it hasn't changed a thing for anyone else, if I have a regular that drinks three pints a day he will save £10 in a year)
- Supermarket sales including permitting the sale of alcohol as a loss leader
- Massive increases in fuel costs (which affects cost of all delivered products / raw materials)
- Massive increase in energy costs
- Benefits system (we have an increasing number of applicants that can 'only work 16 hrs' even though they are fit and available for work)
- Smoking Ban (although I personally support it)

Licensee's are trained to serve alcohol in a controlled environment, It is my responsibility to ensure that people in my premises do so in a safe manner, and adhere to the principles as set out in the personal license. Who ensures responsible drinking when someone can purchase vast quantities at discount prices from a supermarket, I believe people drink far more excessively since these 'improvements' were introduced, and that the results will soon be visible through the NHS statistics.

We hear talk of a broken society, it is true that people don't know the names of there neighbours anymore, and it is a shame, they used to pop to the pub to have a sociable pint, that was in the days when the local pub was the hub of the community, people looked out for each other and crime rates were lower.

All small businesses are encouraged to employ the unqualified and long term unemployed, we are the perfect industry for this, however there will be no pubs left if something isn't done soon to support us.

Yours

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