

I am the owner of a micro brewery in , as well as two pubs, to which my beer is supplied exclusively.

I fully back statutory regulation for pubcos – I am appalled at their behaviour and the way in which they have been allowed to treat their lessees and the detrimental effect it has had on our pub industry, decimating the number of pubs in order to make the men at the top richer, whilst our heritage and our licensees become poorer.

I can only see good things coming from lessees being allowed a Market Rent Only option – a much fairer system for the licensees, ensuring they can actually make a living, and a much better deal for small brewers and consumers.

My beer is only available to my pubs, but I hope in time to become successful enough to sell to others. However, with the present system this is not practical for me. I cannot approach tied pubs unless I use the SIBA DDS system which is prohibitive to a small brewer like myself – other brewers have told me it is around £500 to join, and that is just too much to take from a brewery as small as mine. And you have to become a member and pay the fee before you are told what price SIBA will give you for the beer – that really doesn't sound fair to me.

Other problems with the system that we have been told about are that you are given very little notice of when a beer is ordered – sometimes the night before for a next day delivery! Bigger breweries may be able to cope with this, but we cannot just drop everything to get an order out on such short notice. Also there is no control over how long your beer is listed for; as a system it really does not work well for small and micro breweries, and favours big breweries much more.

The pricing worries me too, I know that sometimes almost 50% is added on to the licensee by the pubco – which means my beer would be ridiculously expensive to the customer for the licensee to make any profit, there is no way I would be able to condone that.

As a whole the tied system is totally anti-competition, something I believed this government was against.

Thank you for the chance to be able to give my opinion about this and I really hope common sense, and also economic sense, prevails.