

596

11 JUN 2013

28<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable  
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills  
Dept for Business, Innovation and Skills  
1 Victoria St  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Dear Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable,

Re Government Consultation Pub Companies and Tenants April 2013

I have worked with Punch Taverns for over 10 years and for me and my family the whole experience has been very positive. I could never have been able to afford a free house so for me the only option was to take out a tenancy initially and more recently to convert this to a lease agreement. The beer is expensive but the company has worked with me to develop my business and make it the success it is today.

They have given me an investment which has boosted my business in these tough times. I obviously don't speak for everyone who has a tenancy or lease but for me the toughest challenges have come directly from the government, beer duty escalator/business rates/cheap accessible alcohol from supermarkets and vat.

If the government was really interested in the lowly publican they could reduce vat for food/scrap the beer duty escalator or at least make it clear to the general public that when they reduce beer by 1p per pint that the landlord still has to pay more due to the beer escalator while increasing wines, spirits and soft drinks/ charges less vat for kegs of beer that lager as these are not available in supermarkets and if sold in a pub at least it is a controlled environment with strict guidelines i.e. underage drinking/alcohol abuse.

Pub Companies do not exploit the tenant/lease they have given me an opportunity I would never have had. The government initiatives and the recession are the key factors making it difficult to succeed.

I look forward to your comments.