



Campaign for Pubs

Promote, Support and Protect Pubs

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

23rd July 2020

Dear Chancellor,

URGENT – Government pulling the rug from beneath the UK’s small brewers

We are writing to you as a matter of urgency, on behalf of the nation’s small breweries and the Campaign for Pubs. Besides having publican and pub campaigner members, the Campaign for Pubs also represents small brewers who believe in a vision of a freer, fairer, more sustainable UK pub and drinks industry. This letter is from the Campaign for Pubs and breweries listed below. You will note that one of the signatories of this letter is a brewery in your own constituency.

Many small breweries and their customers are utterly dismayed at the announcement that the Government intends to alter Small Brewers Relief by changing the threshold at which Small Brewers Relief starts to taper, from 5000hL to 2100hL. Small Brewers Relief was conceived as a progressive measure to help level-up the wholesale beer market and promote brewery growth. This change does the opposite.

This means that a number of the UK’s small breweries (including in your own constituency) will shoulder an increased tax burden, which is devastating news. For the Government to have announced this now, when these same breweries have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, is staggering and flies in the face of claims that the Government is committed to helping smaller businesses survive.

This announcement comes at a time when most small independent breweries have already missed out on the government support made available to their counterparts in the hospitality industry, in the way of cash grants or a Business Rates holiday. Sadly, this decision by the Government will almost certainly lead to the loss of jobs and breweries.

Although a consultation is now offered on the detail, it appears that an arbitrary decision has been made in respect of reducing the 5000hL threshold to 2100hL. Could you please explain on what basis that 2100hL figure was selected? Could you also please share any impact studies conducted in advance of this decision?

The UK government appears to have capitulated to lobbying from a small number of medium sized and larger breweries, who wish to protect their businesses from open competition and reduce the tax burden on their companies by increasing it on others. Frustratingly, that is at the expense of disincentivising, if not prohibiting, the growth of smaller breweries. The key lobbyists in this regard style themselves the ‘Small Brewer’s Duty Reform Coalition’ - a tiny group of medium/large sized brewers.

Far from ‘saving the British pint as we know it’, they are actually seeking to end the production of many much-loved pints by undermining smaller competition and reducing the choice to beer

Campaign for Pubs – The Volunteer Arms, 5 Watson Street, Holgate, York YO24 4BH

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Registered company number 12637917 Registered in England & Wales

drinkers. It is yet another example of the wholly dishonest presentation in the beer and pub sector that is commonly employed by larger interests pushing their own aims. You have been misled by a group of brewers who appear to have a direct line into the Treasury, whilst ignoring the needs of many smaller breweries. We urge you to rethink this decision and to listen to the whole brewing community.

It is extremely disappointing that the UK Government continues to respond to the wishes of larger business, while ignoring the needs of small enterprise - exactly as has happened with the decision in the summer statement to provide huge amounts of support to chain restaurants and pub-restaurants, whilst not offering any help to the pubs that need it most. The smaller wet-led pubs, micropubs and taprooms hammered by that announcement and competitively disadvantaged against the High Street brands, are also the venues that are more likely to serve the local small brewery beer that this latest measure will harm.

Small breweries are part of our national fabric and play a vital role in the economy. They create more jobs than larger breweries and they pay disproportionately more tax into Treasury coffers than large breweries. They bring local flavours and variety to our pubs. They do not deserve to be put out of business in order to secure the dividends of larger brewery shareholders. Moreover, as we head toward trying financial times, my sense is that the Government's message really doesn't want to be about shutting-down entrepreneurship possibilities and the growth of small businesses in order to protect larger ones.

We look forward to engaging in the subsequent consultation and making the case for supporting, rather than penalising, the nation's small brewers. In the meantime, it would be helpful for us to understand what information was provided to the Treasury in the conduct of this alarming and highly questionable decision.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Saltonstall
Brewer Coordinator

Brass Castle Brewery
Half Moon Brewery
Old Sawley Brewery
Steel City Brewing
Tenby Brewing Co
Thirsty Pioneers Brewing Co
Canterbury Brewers
Windmill Hill Brewery
Black Storm Brewery
Cold Black Label
Hoppy Family Brewery



Greg Mulholland
Campaign Director

Yorkshire Dales Brewery
Wishbone Brewery
Attic Brew Co
Colchester Brewery
Lost Pier Brewing
Broadtown Brewery
Milestone Brewery
Howard Town Brewery
Weird Beard Brew Co
Lithic Brewing
Station 119 Brewery
Nomadic Brewery Company Ltd
Cheshire Brewhouse
Ride Brew Co
Loddon Brewery
Black Tor Brewery
Ecokeg Europe
IVO Brewery
Buntingford Brewery
Brecon Brewing
Fingerprint Brewing Co
Ferry Ales Brewery

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Lost Industry Brewing	Emmanuales Brewery	Hop Forward
Neepsend Brew Co	Outhouse Brewing	Fosse Way Brewing Company
Bone Machine Brew Co	Totally Brewed	Glasshouse Brew Co
Hops and Dots Brewery	Mashionistas Brewery	Harwich Town Brewing Co
Quantock Brewery	Wilde Child Brewing Co	Hush Brewing Co
Billericay Brewing	Golden Triangle Brewing	Exit 33 Brewing
WooHa Brewing Company	Common Rioters Brewery	4T's Brewery
Wibblers Brewery	Grounding Angels Brew Co	Norn Iron Brew Co
Mother Brew	Escape Brewery	Emperor's Brewery
Boutilliers Brewery	Linear Brewing Company	Bang the Elephant Brewing Co
Credence Brewing	Heist Brew Co	Yupp Beer
Steam Town Brew Co	Tyton Brewing	Tap It Brewing Company
The Botley Brewery	Hidden Lane Brewery	Bubble Works Brew Co
Pomona Island Brew Co	Lenton Lane Brewery	Neon Raptor Brewing Co
Cheddar Ales	Tom's Tap and Brewhouse	Bollington Brewing Co
Gyle 59 – Jon's Brewery Ltd	Exe Valley Brewery	Avid Brewing Co
Loxley Brewery	Whitefaced Beer Co	Irving & Co Brewers
Wild Weather Ales	Distortion Brewing Company	Spotlight Brewing
Liquid Light Brew Co	Trinity Brew Co	Stealth Brew Co
Blue Monkey Brewery	Brumaison	Mad Dog Brewing Co
Donzoko	Made of Stone	Brew York
Brolly Brewing	Ad Hop Brewing	ORA Brewing
Newcastle Brewing	Hop Therapy Brewing	Fallen Acorn Brewing Co
Earth Ale	McCull's Brewery	Cwrw Ial Community Brew Co
Tapestry Brewery	Beath Brewery	Southwark Brewing Company
Saints Row Brewing Co	Caps Off Brewery	To The Moon Brewery
Coul Brewing Company	The Hop Studio	Missing Link Brewing
Bingley Brewery	Beer Ink	Cerne Abbas Brewery
Cullach Brewing	Devilstone Brewing Co	Electro Brewing
Angel Microbrewery	BeerRiff Brewing	Firehouse Brewery
Tap Social Movement Brewery	Handyman Brewery	Blackjack Beers
Creative Juices Brewing Company	Cushty Brew Brewing Co	Liverpool Brewing Co
Salt Beer Factory	Chapter Brewing Company	Hammerton Brewery
Hilltop Brewing Co	Bear Town Brewery	Axholme Brewing Co
Full Circle Brew Co	Boat Lane Brewery	Hesket Newmarket Brewery
Dawkins Ales	Leigh on Sea Brewery	Bank Top Brewery
Northern Monk	Love Lane Brewery	Demon Brewing
Duration Brewing	Round Corner Brewing	Fallen Brewing
Top Rope Brewing	Melwood Beer Co	Heist Brew Co
Copper Dragon	Torrside Brewing	Left Handed Brewing
Errant Brewery	Grainstore Brewery	Mill Valley Brewery
Out There Brewing Company	Burton Town Brewery	Brew By Numbers
Good Chemistry Brewing	Flower Horn Brewery	Stannary Brewing Co
Drygate Brewing Co	Hackney Brewery	Bond Brews
Good Things Brewing	Franklins Brewery	Double-Barrelled Brewery
Thames Side Brewery	First Chop Brewing	First and Last Brewery
Bad Co Brewing and Distilling	Musket Brewery	Darkland Brewery
Floc Brewing	Salopian Brewery	Inferno Brewery

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Backyard Brewhouse	Nothing Bound Brewing Co	Ramsgate Brewery
Cellar Head Brewing Co	Boot Town Brewery	TQ Beerworks
Pipeline	Arundel Brewery	Goodness Brewing Company
Verdant Brewing Co	Elusive Brewing	Bad Seed Brewery
Fell Brewery	Cooper Hill Brewhouse	Manchester Union Brewery
Chain House Brewing Co	Play Brew Co	Peerless Brewing
Radio City Beer Works	Brown Cow Brewery	Buxton Brewery
Revolutions Brewing	Trefforest Brewery	Fierce & Noble Brewery
Roundhill Brewery	Big Hand Brewing	Karma Brewery
Boudicca Brewery	Castle Rock Brewery	White Horse Brewery
Pilot Beer	Wildcraft Brewery	Big Hug Brewing
Triple Point Brewing	Turning Point Brew Co	Navigation Brewery
Loch Lomond Brewery	Atom Brewing	Doncaster Brewery
71 Brewing	Overtone Brewing Company	Ainsty Ales
Treboom Brewery	Enviropunk Brewing	Stonehouse Brewery
Thurston's Brewery	Westerham Brewery	Tonbridge Brewery
Chapel Brewery	Amity Brew Co	Neptune Brewery
Kent Brewery	Truth Hurts Brew Co	Hornes Brewery
Maverick Brewing	Docks Beers	Maxim Brewery
Clarkshaw's Brewery	Bexley Brewery	Beatniks Republic Brewing Co
Red Willow Brewery	Beer Nouveau	Horsforth Brewery
New Bristol Brewery	Marble Brewery	Goff's Brewery
Exale Brewing	Beak Brewery	Ampersand Brew Co
Chapter Brewing	Pictish Brewing Co	The Park Brewery
Little Monster Brewery	Leviathan Brewing	North Riding Brewery
Pinkers Craft Brewery	Runaway Brewery	Meanwood Brewery
Staffordshire Brewery	Nobby's Brewery Co	Simple Things Fermentation
Wincle Beer Company	Pilgrim Brewery	Kelham Island Brewery
Small World Beers	Abbeydale Brewery	Alter Ego Brewing
Frisky Bear Brewing Co	Beerblefish Brewing Company	Grafton Fine Ales
Flathead Brewery	The Mad Yank Brewery	Brewsmith Beer
Pitchfork Ales	Stubborn Mule Brewery	Time and Tide Brewing
Stockport Brewing Company	North Down Brewery	Alfred's Brewery
Inner Bay Brewery	Dunham Massey Brewery	Cloak + Dagger
Glasgow Beer Works	Squawk Brewing Co	Pig and Porter
Twisted Brewing	Two Towns Down Brewing	Briarbank Brewing Company
Strata Brewing Co	Geeves Brewery	Art Brew
Iron Pier Brewery	Wild Card Brewery	No Frills Joe Brewing Co
ShinDigger Brew Co	Ovenstone 109	O'Neill's Brewing Company
Brightside Brewing	Bexar County Brewery	Hafod Brewing Co
Burton Road Brewing Co	Donkeystone Brewing Co	Moogbrew
Ascot Brewing Company	East London Brewery	William Bros
Kelburn Brewing Co	Heavy Industry Brewing	Spartan Brewery
North Brewing Co	Kissingate Brewery	Loxley Brewery
Shadow Brewing	Manchester Brewing Co	40FT Brewery
Mallinson's Brewing Co	Wild Beer Co	Vaux Brewery
Sherfield Village Brewery	MòR Beers Brewery	Black Cloak Brewery and Tap
Downlands Brewery	Twice Brewed Brewhouse	Cheviot Brewery

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Magic Rock Brewing Co	Abyss Brewing	Fierce & Noble Brewery
Atom Brewery	Alphabet Brewing Co	Northern Monkey Brew Co
Thirst Class Ale	Goacher's Ales	Goddard's Brewery
Brithop Brewing Co	Slater's Ales/Eccleshall Brewing Co	Ferry Brewery
Downton Brewery	Crosspool Alemakers Society	Surrey Hills Brewery
Dorking Brewery	Freedom Brewery	Crankshaft Brewery
Abbey Ales	Brewster's Brewery	Tring Brewery
Wensleydale Brewery	Anspach & Hobday Brewery	Anthology Brewing Company
Little Earth Beer	Anarchy Brew Co	Zapato Brewery
Goose Eye Brewery	Cullercoats Brewery	Mondo Brewing Co
Track Brewery Co	Eight Arch Brewing	Cloudwater Brew Co
Ilkley Brewery	Thornbridge Brewery	Rivington Brewing Co
Bridgehouse Brewery	Flagship Beer	