



Campaign for Pubs

Promote, Support and Protect Pubs

Rt. Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

21st September 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

Urgent open letter to Boris Johnson from publicans

We are writing to you on behalf of the nation's pubs and publicans and their families to implore you to listen to our collective voice, the voice of the thousands of people who actually run the pubs that serve their communities up and down the country.

We are writing so you understand the very worrying reality currently facing pubs and publicans, and the impact of any further restrictions to trade, when currently many pubs are trading scarcely profitably or not trading profitably at all.

Already many publicans are facing serious anxiety about the situation and current levels of trade. Be in no doubt, many pubs are already on the edge and could not survive any further restrictions to trade.

We are dismayed at suggestions of a national curfew or a second national lockdown. Both things would be disastrous for pubs – and without significant support direct to pubs and publicans (of which none is currently available) there would be many pub closures and the loss of many thousands of jobs.

We also question what evidence there is that pubs are responsible for the recent increase in the spread of Covid-19. It is very notable that a great many pubs have now been open for eleven weeks, including through the Government's own Eat Out to Help Out scheme, yet that period did not see a major surge in infection rates. Indeed, the Government publicly attributed rises during that period to infections spreading in homes and not in regulated, controlled public areas such as pubs. All of this is of course in notable contrast to the very recent developments since the reopening of schools.

Schools have been open for just two weeks and the impact is clear. It has, inevitably, led to an increase in cases. Many of us know this because our own children's schools are affected. We agree wholeheartedly however, that schools must not close so that children – including our children – miss no more education, and we respect school staff enormously for the wonderful job they are doing in making schools as safe as they can be.

Similarly, publicans and pub staff up and down the country are working extremely hard to follow rules and guidelines. We are determined to keep our pubs and customers as safe as possible with constant cleaning and sanitizing, restricting space and adapting our service to keep people socially distanced. We are happy to do our bit and operate safely and are prepared to do so with reduced capacity, but we simply cannot survive more restrictions.

Most pubs in the country are run by small businesses, often individual families, who serve their community directly from within. The work is relentless, and even at the best of times the responsibilities are enormous, while the rewards for most are notoriously far from plentiful. Our communities are at the heart of what we do, our reputation within our communities is of paramount importance to us, and we feel as passionately as anyone about preventing the spread of this virus. As public-facing, community orientated businesses we are used to being on the "front line" in many respects and accept that we must

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carry out our business as safely as possible and under strict regulations, but any measures that further restrict our trade must only be made on the understanding of the impact they will have – and the fact is many pubs simply cannot survive if more restrictions are introduced.

It sadly appears to be all too easy for some people, some of whom have their income unaffected by this crisis, to call for pubs to close, not realising the impact on thousands of people in the sector and their families. Plus, there often there seems to be the misconception that pubs are merely places to do nothing more than drink alcohol, when in truth, for the vast majority of pubs, this is simply not the case. Pubs straddle a unique line between business and a community service, providing vital cohesion and companionship within local communities, not only at no cost to the public purse but whilst actively contributing enormous sums to it. Seldom has this role held such importance as now, with the economy so battered and at a time when people have been so isolated and, in many cases, fearful for so long.

It is also time that decision makers understood that pubs directly provide the livelihoods of thousands of families up and down the country and sustain the viability of thousands more businesses in their supply chains. There seems to be no consideration of *our families* and *our children* and the families and children of our staff, some of whom are already facing hardship due to the fact restricted trade means we are struggling to make a profit or in many cases, are not making one at all.

The reality is that any decision to impose further restrictions on pubs threatens the livelihoods of thousands of people. It risks the failure of many pub businesses and the permanent closure of thousands of pubs, irrevocably changing the face of this country, its villages, towns and cities. A key part of our culture, and an institution that is known and loved all round the world, namely the great British pub, is now under grave threat.

For those of us who rent our pubs, we need the Government to step in and finally, once and for all, stop pubcos and commercial landlords from charging exploitative rents which bear no relation to the reality of trading under the current Government imposed restrictions. There is no option now but that they be compelled to do so by Government, because they are currently completely and openly flouting the recent voluntary Code of Practice on commercial rents. In many cases cynical freeholders are actively waiting for small-business tenant licensees to be forced to give up and to hand back the keys to their pubs. There is then also a huge danger that many of these pubs will be disposed of for alternative use.

So please be clear – the Government cannot make further restrictions without properly compensating pubs and publicans – and it seems clear this is not going to happen. In which case, you must allow us to continue to operate safely and stop allowing people to blame pubs when cases of the virus surge within homes or schools.

If the Government orders another lockdown or even a national curfew, there are many of us who simply will not be able to carry on. Some will have no choice but to walk away, meaning many will then face further hardship and that there will be an impending mental health crisis amongst publicans and their families. We will continue to do all we can to help the national effort to control this disease, but before imposing any further restriction, the Government and all their advisers must understand the disastrous and costly impact to thousands of families and their well-being.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Crossman
Chair, Campaign for Pubs
The Swan, The Slip Inn & Volunteer Arms, York



Dawn Hopkins
Vice-Chair, Campaign for Pubs
The Rose, Norwich

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

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1. Paul Crossman, Chair, Campaign for Pubs; The Swan, The Slip Inn & Volunteer Arms, York
2. Dawn Hopkins, Vice-Chair, Campaign for Pubs; The Rose, Norwich
3. Gary Murphy, Campaign for Pubs PCA Liaison Officer; Ye Olde Mitre Inne, High Barnet
4. Victoria Macdonald, Campaign for Pubs NEC; member Cellar House, Norwich & The Old Ram's Head, Tivetshall St Mary, Norfolk
5. Dave Law, Campaign for Pubs NEC member; The Eagle Ale House, Battersea
6. Mark Newcombe, Campaign for Pubs Community Pubs Adviser; Chair, Craufurd Arms Society Ltd., Maidenhead
7. Georgette Way, Campaign for Pubs NEC, Cheltenham Motor Club, Cheltenham
8. Carol Ross, The Roscoe Head, Liverpool
9. Terry Weston, The New George, Kirkstall, Leeds
10. Piers Baker, The Sun Inn, Dedham, Essex & Church Street Tavern, Colchester
11. Andrew Bidmead, The Fork 'n' Ale Taproom & Kitchen, Weston-Super-Mare
12. Charley South, The Brickmakers, Norwich
13. Tom & Paulina Renshaw, The Waggon & Horses, York
14. Daniel King, The Stonehenge Inn, Durrington, Salisbury
15. Dave Hayward, A Hoppy Place, Windsor
16. Phil Doyle, Three Tuns, Heddon on the Wall, Newcastle
17. Jason Hobbs, The Cleeve Pub Co and The Corner Cupboard
18. James Overy retired brewery estate & regional manager, Hall & Woodhouse Brewery; retired publican Halfway Inn, Newbury; Roebuck, Marlborough; Grapes, Abingdon; Bull & Bush, Torquay; The Boatel, Dartmouth
19. Tom Kitt, Golden Slipper, York
20. Graham Wall, The Commercial Inn, Pontymister
21. Michael Hill, Bay Horse, Denton
22. Patrick Melaugh, King's Arms, Boston
23. Jenny Baish and Martin Hayes, Barley Mow, Cox Green, Maidenhead
24. Gary Penrose, Marcia Inn, Bishopthorpe, York
25. Jonathan Gardner, The Harbour Bar, Gourdon
26. Philip Taylor, Kings Head, Loddon
27. Mel Green, The Black Bull, Otley
28. Una McKernan, The Gunners, Highbury, London
29. Ed Anderson, The Railway, The Vine and The Swan, Cheltenham

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30. Phil Walker, The New Union, Kendal
31. Justin Peacock, The Steam Coach, Hemel Hempstead
32. Pat Palmer, The Hare Arms, Stow Bardolph
33. Neil Hainsworth, The Argyll, Henley-on-Thames
34. Vanessa Roberts, The Cock Inn, Gamlingay
35. Ivan Greensmith, The White Lion, Bramcote
36. Gary and Kelly Tipping, The Old Nag's Head, Oxfordshire
37. Jason Smith, The Malt Shovel, Menston and The White Swan, Otley
38. Dean and Jan Ball, The Bay Horse, Otley
39. Gareth Slattery The Butterfly Collector, Barry
40. Nicholas Hair, The Kentish Belle Micropub, Bexleyheath
41. Martin Callaghan The Moss Rose, Kearsley, Bolton
42. Ellis Walsh, Brass Castle Taphouse, Malton
43. Adam Garrett, The Compasses, Egham
44. Gregory Mascalick, Draycott Tap House, Draycott, Derby
45. Stephen Montgomery, Townhead Hotel, Lockerbie
46. Sharon Butcher, The Grapes, Melton Mowbray
47. Natalie Bradley, The Railway Inn, Hyde
48. Zoe Potts, Devonshire Arms, Somercotes, Derbyshire
49. Nick Holden and Kate Ahrens, The Geese and Fountain, Croxton Kerrial, Leicestershire
50. Steve Womack, The Turnpike, Bawtry, South Yorkshire
51. Susan Martin, The George Inn, Alnwick, Northumberland
52. Peter Sheehy, The Turks Head, Gloucester

53. Graeme Wilson, Chair, The Golden Ball Cooperative Ltd, York
54. Earl Nicholson, Rose & Crown, Winlaton
55. Paul Marshall, The Rook and Gaskill, York
56. Rodda Thompson, Crown and Sceptre, Stroud
57. Ross Cavanagh, The Golden Ball, Bridgwater, Somerset
58. Sam King, The George Winslow, Winslow, Buckinghamshire
59. Si Vanderbilt & Aggy Perreau, The Little Taproom, Aigburth Road, Liverpool
60. Marie Parkinson and Debbi Loker, GroovePad Beer and Vinyls, Otley
61. Anne Banfield, The Foresters, Farnham Common, Buckinghamshire
62. Bryn Jones, The Oxford Arms, Kirtlington, Oxfordshire
63. Dave Oakey, Coach House Inn, Rosedale Abbey, North Yorkshire
64. Judi Perry, Finns, Weymouth
65. Laura Hayler, The Jubilee, Sunbury-On-Thames, Middlesex
66. Laura Mouat, The Green, Haddington
67. Mike Carroll, The Black Horse, Stratford St Mary
68. Matt Todd, The Windham Arms, Sheringham
69. David and Eileen Stephan, The Manor House, Otley
70. Malcolm and Fiona Tolladay, The Winning Post, York
71. Jenny Buratta, Buratta's at the Royal Oak, Ruscombe, Berkshire
72. Raj Arya, The Albany, Guildford
73. Elaine Huggins, The Wellington Ale House, Lichfield
74. Usha and Garry James, Stag Hunt Inn, Ponsanooth, Cornwall
75. Karen Worts, The Cannon Inn, Newton Poppleford, Devon

76. Colin Toner, The King's Head, Bexley
77. Steve Gosling, The Three Pigeons, Witney, Oxfordshire
78. Greg Silverwood, The Rookery, Otley
79. Chris Hume, Eliot Arms, Tregadillett, Launceston, Cornwall
80. Val and Libby Bargewell, The Crown, Crook, County Durham
81. Amanda Nicoll, The Horseshoe Inn, Ledbury
82. Kate Wood, The Queen's Head at Bramfield, Halesworth, Suffolk
83. Melanie Hill, The Rutland Arms, Southsea, Hampshire
84. Susan Fletcher, The Pheasant Inn, Admaston, Telford, Shropshire
85. Debbie Collinge, The Albert, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire
86. Alexander Jethwa, The Orange Tree, Altrincham
87. Zoe Kroon, The Star Inn, Lymm, Cheshire
88. Russell Camp, The Wheatsheaf, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire
89. Geraldine Rendle, The Stags Head, Great Doddington, Wellingborough, Northants
90. Rachel Restarick, The Black Bull, 244 Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, Essex
91. Lorna King, The Lambs Arms Inn, Crawcrook, Ryton, Tyne and Wear
92. Robert Cameron, The Shoulder of Mutton, Strumpshaw, Norfolk
93. Alison Munden, The George Inn, Portsmouth
94. Paula Burton, The Coven, Tamworth, Staffordshire
95. Susan Henney, The Beachcomber, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk
96. Anthony Goode, Rose and Crown, Halstead, Kent
97. Sean Arnett, The Blackwood Arms, Slough
98. Alex Greig, Fuggles Beer Cafe, Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells

99. Dawn Groom, Ye Old Huntercombe, The Cherrypicker and The Red Cow, Slough
100. Mark Bates, Three Bs Micropub, Bridlington
101. Ivan Titmuss, Fox and Duck, Therfield
102. Paul Griffiths, The Rocket, Liverpool
103. Clive Coules, The Black Horse, Tring, The Chatsworth, Banbury and the Vine Vaults, Banbury
104. Lisa and James Drew, The Golden Bell, Leighton Buzzard
105. Julie and Keith Balmer, The Freemason's Arms, Wigan
106. Andrew Clennett. Bluestone Inn, Immingham
107. Kathryn Lewis, The Anchor Inn, Bridport
108. Damien Cotter, The Trevelyan Arms, Goldsithney, Cornwall
109. Frances Ecob, The Horseshoes, Asfordby, Leicestershire
110. Derek Parker, The White Lion, Swingate, Nottinghamshire
111. Edward Hackland, The Waggon at Halam, Newark, Nottinghamshire
112. Cathy Caudwell, The Gate Inn, Retford, Nottinghamshire
113. Paul Cook, The Angry Parrot Micropub, Cheltenham
114. Lee Maloney, The New Inn, Buckingham
115. Garry Dennant Kings Head, Ingram Road, Walsall
116. Tracy Little, The Welsh Princess, Rayne, Essex
117. Louise Woolgar, The Button Oak Inn, Bewdley, Worcestershire
118. Tom Smyth, Joiner's Arms, Camberwell, London
119. Janine Vanden, The Black Bull, Longton, Preston
120. Gill Chapman, Railway Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne
121. Michaela Morgan, Royal Oak Inn, Blandford Forum, Dorset

122. Sue Diaper, The John Harvey Arms, Whitchurch, Bristol
123. Tom Paterson, The Clumber Inn, Ordsall, Retford
124. Paul Dexter, The Old Swan, Earl's Barton, Northampton
125. Kevin Gallagher The York Hotel, St Helens
126. Judy Allen, The Mug House, Claines, Worcester
127. Lisa Goodall, Foresters Arms, Bagshot
128. Karen Hart, Crown Inn, Potterhill, Greasbrough
129. Ann Watson, Millers, Glasgow
130. Laura Headlam, The Mucky Duck, Brighton
131. Neil Ainsworth. The Argyll, Henley on Thames
132. Jo Loring, Cosy Dove, Spital Tongues, Newcastle
133. Wayne Carl Glover, The Bridge Hotel, Durham
134. Andy Cockram, Irby Mill, Greasby and White Lion Inn, West Kirby
135. Steve Baxter, Grove Tavern, Tunbridge Wells, Kent
136. John Pybus, The Blue Bell, York
137. Shaun Davis, The Brewers Arms, Bower House Tye, Polstead Suffolk
138. Kevin Burgess, The Aviator, Queensborough, Isle of Sheppey
139. Caroline Kennedy, Flying Dutchman, Queensborough, Isle of Sheppey
140. Miranda Richardson, Live and Let Live, Harpole
141. Mark Marriott, The George & Dragon, Newton, Derbyshire
142. Deborah Horton, The Albion, Heminfield, Barnsley
143. Gareth Bentham, The Old Roebuck, Altrincham
144. Lajos Molnar, Judes Ferry, West Row, Suffolk

145. Zoe O'Hara, White Horse, Marchwood, Southampton
146. Steve Burley, The Countryman, Tasburgh, Norfolk
147. Susannah & Chris Mansfield, The Station House, Durham and Fram Ferment, Framwellgate Moor, Durham
148. Lee Jordan, Three-Legged Mare, York
149. Philip Eades, The Globe Inn, Swanage, Dorset
150. Carolyn Meister, The Kings Head, Allendale, Northumberland
151. Felix Pearce, The Prince Regent, London
152. Chris and Claire Bull, The Swan Inn, Barbourne, Worcester
153. Patrick Smith, Seven Oaks, Manchester
154. Dermot Connell, Prince of Wales, Clapham, London
155. Natalie Jennings, The Horns of Boningale, Boningale, Albrighton, Wolverhampton
156. Alex Major, The Famous Royal Navy Volunteer and The Nettle & Rye, Bristol
157. Alison Moore, The Ollerton House, Newark, Nottinghamshire
158. Lynne and Mark Bolton, The Cock Inn, Hanslope, Milton Keynes
159. Ilya Klekovkin, Haunch of Venison, Salisbury
160. Darren McInerney, The Blue Bell, East Drayton
161. Sharon Black, The Rose and Crown, Hartlip, Kent
162. Mark Genders, The John O'Gaunt Freehouse, Hungerford, Berkshire
163. Daniel Johnson, The Harrows Inn Lincoln, The Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby and The Chequers, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire
164. Thomas Hughes, The Colliery Tavern, Boldon Colliery, Tyne and Wear
165. Sharon & Leigh Maund, Inn on the Lake, Bletchley, Milton Keynes
166. Steven & Maura Mclauchlin, Blakelys Bar, Blantyre and Girdwoods Bar, Wishaw

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167. Sam Hughes and Steven Jenkins, The Miners Sling, Sling, Coleford, Gloucestershire
168. Ian and Sonia Sheppard , The Crown Hotel and The White Hart, Nottingham
169. Zoe McCabe, The Whip & Collar, Iver
170. Adelle Gill & Stephen Ellis, The White Hart, Corsley, Wiltshire
171. Liz and Gary Ellis, Elephant and Castle, Lewes, Sussex
172. Simon Bond, The Palmerston Arms, Peterborough
173. Nick Barnes, The Crown Hotel, Long Melford, Suffolk
174. Gary McDonald, The Tame Valley Hotel, Dukinfield
175. Janet Stevenson. Hand & Shuttle, Burnley, Lancashire
176. Steve Perry, Finns, Weymouth, Dorset
177. Nigel & Sue Fell, Kings Head, Bildeston, Suffolk
178. Jack Morris, The Three Tuns, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands
179. Fiona Johnson. The Ale House, Taunton, Somerset
180. Georgina Turner, The Regal, Kingsbridge, Devon
181. Lucy & Liam Fairlie, Latitude48, Barnstaple, Devon
182. Ceitidh Pike, The Red Lion at Ouston, County Durham
183. Donna Llewellyn, Victoria Inn, Pontypridd
184. Stephen Sleeth, The Yard Micropub, Blaydon-On-Tyne
185. Violeta Morgan, The Anchor, Wadesmill & Gade and Goose, Gadesbridge, Hertfordshire
186. Wez Ranyard and Gemma Stevens, Madisons, Newark
187. Patricia Russell, Director, The Dog & Gun Inn, Netheravon
188. Victoria Kinder, The Green Man, Lincoln, Lincolnshire
189. Michelle Gate, Idols, Hartlepool

190. Donna smith, The Ty Mawr Hotel, Pontypridd, South Wales
191. Graham Richardson, The Pelaw Inn, Gateshead
192. Dawn Stephen, Bricklayers Arms, Crowborough
193. Clare Higgins, The Wadsley Jack, Wadsley
194. Stephanie Anderson, The Sir Tom Finney, Preston
195. Scott Wilson, Beastfair Vaults, Pontefract West Yorkshire & The Liquorice Bush, Pontefract, West Yorkshire
196. Emma Shepherd, Blue Ball Inn, Worrall, Sheffield
197. Dawn McLachlan, The Porterhouse, Westbourne, Bournemouth
198. Gemma Hamilton, Twyn Y Ffrwd Inn, Pontypool, South Wales
199. Alex Brkovitz, Crown and Sceptre, SW London
200. Barry Stapleton, Devonport Arms, Paignton, Devon
201. Kareem Naaman, Play at The Palace, Wellingborough
202. Matt Hatfield, The Flying Pig, Cambridge
203. Danielle Wheatley & Chris Baylis of The Jolly Brewmaster, Cheltenham
204. Paula Herbert, Bird in Hand, Wordsley, Stourbridge
205. Merlin Griffiths, Maltsters Country Inn, Badby, Northamptonshire
206. Deborah and Michael Dickeson, The Cock Inn, Polstead, Suffolk
207. Adam Brooks, The Owl Pub, Loughton, Essex and The Three Colts, Buckhurst Hill, Essex
208. Jordan Batchelor, Dan Batchelor, Dilia Scott, Michael Scott, The Nags Head, Henley in Arden and The Roebuck Inn, Warwick
209. Jo Zezulka, Ilkley Moor Vaults, Ilkley
210. Chris Ware, Little Oak, Chester
211. Leanne Dillon, Beer EnGin Micropub, Whiston, Merseyside

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- 212. Lisa Leighton, Sun Inn, Scawsby, Doncaster
- 213. Pete Tiley, The Salutation Inn, Ham, Berkeley