



Campaign for Pubs

Promote, Support and Protect Pubs

Paul Scully MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
(Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets)
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

22nd April 2021

Dear Paul,

Urgent - Regulations for ordering and taking payment in pubs

The current rules and regulations for outdoors only opening are causing huge problems for many publicans and pub staff who are struggling to cope with multiple trips to distanced tables in often large outdoor areas. The regulations are also significantly increasing staffing costs and many pubs do not have sufficient staff to open every day and comply with these requirements. The Government's regulations are making it difficult or impossible for many pubs to operate profitably, when they urgently need to do so.

Staff who are working are run ragged and trying to ensure people give their details (in some cases by taking them in writing), show people to tables, take orders, deliver orders, clear glasses and plates, wipe down tables and oversee social distancing.

So we urge the Government to show some understanding and to make a reasonable, small, change, to make things easier and more manageable for pubs, publicans and staff.

We are asking, very simply, for the Government to give pubs the same position as cafes and tearooms, when it comes to ordering and paying.

The rules for cafes and tearooms are that "customers are able to order and collect food and drink from a counter but must consume food and drink while seated at a table".

So we are asking you to make this same rule apply to pubs. As far as we can see, there is no evidence that led the Government to decide that people can order and pay inside cafes and tearooms, but that pubs cannot take orders inside and only take payment inside as a last resort. This should change.

We note that the Prime Minister visited the pub this week, whilst campaigning for the local and mayoral elections. This was no doubt as he wanted to show that he and the Government supports pubs and want them to be able to trade. That being the case, then we urge the Government to listen, to understand the impact of unnecessary restrictions (as opposed to reasonable social distancing instructions) and revise the guidelines accordingly to allow pubs to operate the way cafes and tearooms can.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Mulholland
Campaign Director

Paul Crossman
Chair

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