



Campaign for Pubs

Promote, Support and Protect Pubs

Nicola Sturgeon
First Minister
Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

22nd December 2021

Dear First Minister,

New operating rules for pubs and the urgent need for more support

I am writing to express dismay at the measures you have introduced today and to ask if you have any understanding of what this means for small community pubs and the people who work in them.

By reintroducing one metre distancing, you have effectively halved the capacity of small establishments to a point where it is hardly worth opening the door. Unfortunately, because there is no provision to pay staff in the event of closure, pubs will have to open and run at a loss in order to try to pay wages. In many cases, this will still not be possible and countless people face either losing their jobs or weeks of unpaid furlough because there is simply no money to pay them. After nearly two years of restrictions, many businesses have no cash reserves at all and in a lot of cases this will spell the end for them.

To make things worse, you are now mandating table service which costs more to deliver at a point when you are restricting the ability of businesses to make money. This not only puts staff at risk but requires extra manpower to deliver. If capacity is restricted with all customers seated, why is it not possible to have an order and pay point at a screened off bar? Surely this makes much more sense than a member of staff going from table to table? Customers have to stand up to go to the toilet and if they are wearing a mask what is the difference in them buying a drink while they are on their feet, and taking it back to their table?

I and we do understand that you have made some funding available which will go some way towards recovering losses made in the run up to Christmas. This however does not go nearly far enough in light of the measures you have introduced today. The community pub is an important asset and part of Scottish heritage and our way of life. Without further support, many will not survive past the beginning of the year and communities will be much poorer for it. We urge you to understand this and to support Scottish pubs and the Scottish hospitality sector, which is so important for Scotland's tourism and the economy.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Morag Douglas
Campaign for Pubs Spokesperson for Scotland
Licensee, The Star, Burntisland

cc Ivan McKee, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise
Scottish Licensed Trade Association

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

Email: campaign@campaignforpubs.org.uk Twitter: [@campaignforpubs](https://twitter.com/campaignforpubs) Facebook: [@campaignforpubs](https://www.facebook.com/campaignforpubs) Instagram: [@campaignforpubs](https://www.instagram.com/campaignforpubs)

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