



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Campaign for Real Ale

Thank you for contacting me about the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

Pubs play a crucial role in the social and economic life of our nation. The British Beer and Pub Association estimate that each pub contributes £80,000 each year to its local economy. I am glad that the pub sector is being supported in a range of ways.

Through the Asset of Community Value scheme, communities can list facilities of local importance, such as pubs. This means that if a pub owner wishes to sell, the community has six months to come up with a plan and funding in order to try to save it. I am glad that more than 1,200 pubs have already been listed in this way.

New measures also ensure that tied pubs have rights under a statutory code with an independent adjudicator to resolve disputes. Many pubs have also benefited from the Government's package on business rates for small businesses.

I welcome that beer duty was frozen this year, following an unprecedented cut in duty in each of the three preceding budgets and the removal of the beer duty escalator in 2013.

There is also greater flexibility on weights and measures, allowing beer and wine to be sold in different sizes. It is easier now for pubs to play live music and £350,000 has been provided for the Pub is The Hub initiative and the Plunkett Foundation to help landlords diversify and provide essential services such as village shops and post offices.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Edward Timpson

Edward Timpson MP

EDWARD TIMPSON

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