



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021

Dear Chancellor,

**DRAUGHT BEER DUTY**

We recognise that this Government has done a huge amount to support the hospitality industry throughout the covid pandemic, and we are grateful for that support. However, despite this help, in our constituencies, we are seeing many pubs and clubs struggling to survive. Some will simply not reopen. We are particularly concerned about 'wet led pubs' who have not benefited from the cuts in VAT but do have all the additional costs of covid.

Given the important social as well as economic contribution pubs make to the communities we represent, we think it is vital we do more to help them not just survive but thrive in the long term. Pubs employ a higher rate of staff than supermarket outlets, are best placed to provide supervised and safe drinking, and through things like sports teams and community activities, make a massive difference.

In short, if we didn't have the pub, we would want to invent it.

For that reason, we would ask you to consider introducing a specific Draught Beer Duty. A cut in duty for draught beer would allow us to target support to those pubs and clubs in a way nothing else could. A lower beer duty on draught sales in pubs, clubs and bars, compared to off sales in supermarkets, would be a huge boost to their ability to prosper and rebuild from Covid-19. Moreover, it would be easy to understand, simple to administer, and importantly, demonstrate this Government's clear commitment to Britain's pubs.

Leaving the European Union provides us with a unique opportunity to offer this support. We believe it would work because:

- Beer accounts for almost half of all drinks sold in the 'on' trade
- 98% of all the draught beer drunk in this country is brewed here. It is a uniquely British product and the knock-on benefit would therefore be kept in the UK and not exported
- It would especially help 'wet led' pubs and clubs, so is targeted

We understand that Treasury are currently considering their response to the Alcohol Duty Review. On behalf of pubs, clubs, and brewers in our constituencies, we would ask that you consider Draught Beer Duty as the way to help them thrive and survive as we recover from the covid pandemic.

With my very best wishes, as ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'R Holden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



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**Co-signed by:**

Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith	Holly Mumby-Croft	Anthony Mangnall
Rt Hon Sir John Hayes CBE	Alex Stafford	Philip Davies
Rt Hon Esther McVey	Ian Levy	Richard Bacon
Rt Hon Karen Bradley	Imran Ahmad Khan	Richard Drax
Rt Hon Mark Francois	James Daly	Richard Fuller
Rt Hon Robert Halfon	James Grundy	Mark Eastwood
Rt Hon Mark Pritchard	James Wild	Robbie Moore
Rt Hon Stephen Crabb	Jason McCartney	Robert Langan
Sir Robert Syms	Julian Knight	Ben Bradley
Sir Bob Neill	Andrew Lewer	Royston Smith GM
Pauline Latham OBE	Kelly Tolhurst	Sally-Ann Hart
Danny Kruger MBE	Lee Anderson	Scott Benton
Bob Seely MBE	Mark Jenkinson	Simon Fell
Craig MacKinley	Bob Blackman	Simon Jupp
Craig Tracey	Matt Vickers	Steve Brine
Brendan Clarke-Smith	Nicola Richards	Tim Loughton
Dehenna Davison	Paul Bristow	Tom Hunt
Dr Jamie Wallis	Paul Howell	Tom Randall
Andrew Carter	Christian Wakeford	Andrew Rosindell
Greg Smith	James Sunderland	Mark Logan
William Wragg	Elliot Colburn	Shaun Bailey
Andrew Bridgen	Peter Bone	Gareth Bacon

And 9 other Conservative MPs

76 Conservative MPs in total.