

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

31st January 2017

Dear Constituent,

RE: PROPOSED TAKEOVER OF PUNCH TAVERNS PLC BY HEINEKEN.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the proposed takeover of Punch Taverns PLC by Heineken.

While I appreciate the concerns that have been expressed over the potential move, this does remain a commercial matter. That said, it is clearly a huge vote of confidence in the British pub, and I understand that an offer currently rests with Punch shareholders for agreement in the coming weeks. This will, of course, be subject to regulatory approval and receive appropriate scrutiny from the competition authorities.

More broadly, I am a firm supporter of pubs here in the constituency and know they play an important role in communities across the UK. I am proud of the action Ministers have taken to back pubs, including three cuts in beer duty, and have no doubt of the Government's ongoing support for the British pub industry.

As you may be aware, the Pubs Code came into force last July, giving tenants more rights and greater protection when dealing with large pub companies that own tied pubs. An independent adjudicator has also been set up to help ensure tied tenants are treated fairly by pub companies and are no worse off than free-of-tie publicans; a principle I firmly support.

Ultimately, the UK has benefited greatly from being an open and free economy. British companies have been successful in attracting investment into the UK and generating the wealth that the nation needs to prosper.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

with best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

LISTENING TO YOU - CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU
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