

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

7th August 2018

Jew Castrolant,

RE: SUPPORT FOR PUBS.

Thank you for contacting me recently about supporting pubs; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

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 Assets 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 pleased that there are now around 2,000 pubs across England listed as assets of community value.

I am also pleased that the Autumn Budget in 2017 announced that duties on beer, cider, wine, and spirits will be frozen throughout 2018. This follows the removal of the beer duty escalator in 2013, and the unprecedented cuts and freezes in beer duty since then, as well as the removal of the duty escalator for spirits, wine, and cider in 2014.

Many pubs have also benefited from the Government's package on business rates for small businesses. The Spring Budget in 2017 also provided a £1,000 discount on business rates bills in 2017 for pubs with a rateable value of less than £100,000 – 90 percent of pubs in England – and I was encouraged to see this extended in the Autumn Budget in 2017 for one more year to March 2019.

There is also greater flexibility in relation to weights and measures, allowing beer and wine to be sold in different sizes. It is now easier for pubs to play live music, and £320,000 has been provided for the 'Pub is The Hub' initiative to help landlords diversify and provide essential services, such as village shops and post offices.

I recognise that pubs are an integral part of our local community and have previously asked Ministers in the House of Commons about the steps being taken to promote our pub trade, highlighting the good work of this industry in Corby & East Northamptonshire.

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

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE