

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

23rd February 2024

Dear Constance,

RE: BEER AND PUBS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about pubs and beer; I have read your comments with interest.

I believe that pubs make an important contribution to our culture – fostering a sense of place and community – and the UK economy. The Government's 'Brexit Pubs Guarantee' confirms the alcohol duty you pay for a drink on tap at your local pub will be up to 11p less per pint than what you will pay in a supermarket. Moreover, the new alcohol duty system implemented in August 2023 included a new Draught Relief that provides a significant duty discount on alcohol sold in containers of 20 litres or more in the on-trade.

The Government has already taken a third of properties out of Business Rates completely through Small Business Rates Relief and has frozen the tax rate for the last three years at a cost of £14.5 billion. The Government has also removed downwards caps from Transitional Relief.

I welcome the Chancellor's decision announced at the 2023 Autumn Statement to freeze the Small Business Multiplier for a fourth consecutive year and extend the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief Scheme, offering a 75 percent discount on Business Rates up to £110,000. This will save the average independent pub over £12,800 next year at a cost of £4.3 billion.

You may also be aware that the Chancellor has decided to freeze all alcohol duty until the 1st August 2024, meaning no increase in duty on beer, cider, wine, or spirits.

Moreover, to continue to support the hospitality sector, the Government announced the extension of the temporary off-sales regulatory easement – set out in the *Business & Planning Act 2020* – until the 31st March 2025. This extension enables holders of licences that only cover 'on sales' to continue to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises, including 'takeaway pints', for a further 18 months.

Once again, thank you for taking 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