



BRITISH INSTITUTE OF INNKEEPING



Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Rt. Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy,
1 Victoria Street,
London
SW1H 0ET

Loss of Christmas trading threatens survival of British pubs

13th December 2021

Dear Chancellor & Secretary of State,

Our 10,000 individual members independently operate pubs in every community across the country and now fear for their survival with Christmas trading decimated following recent Government announcements. The impact of undermined consumer confidence has led to a significant loss of trade and will result in many pubs being both loss making and unable to pay their bills with no cash in their businesses.

We have conducted an extensive survey of our members over the last few days with over 500 respondents, with 82% running a single pub, highlighting the severity of their situation;

- **Two thirds have now had Christmas bookings cancelled**
- Around 50% have had non-Christmas booking cancelled
- 78% have reported significantly reduced trade on 2019 levels
- **2 in 3 have reduced revenues of over 20%**
- **Of these 1 in 3 have reduced revenues of over 40%**
- Operational impacts;
 - o 76% have reduced staff hours
 - o Just under 1 in 4 are letting staff go
 - o 50% have significant food waste

Our members have used all reserves within their businesses, accessed personal savings and despite Government support have accrued over £50,000 of pandemic specific debt. Full Christmas trading was critical to provide any resilience in their businesses to survive the winter months before they can start their recovery from Easter 2022.

I am writing to you both to ask for your continued support to ensure we do not lose these local and viable businesses in every community across the country. They support essential local employment, local supply chains, including small brewers, and continue to provide an accessible and hugely valued community space.

We are asking for you to recognise the severity of the impact of recent announcements with immediate business support to safeguard these essential local businesses.

- **Cancellation of business rates for Q1 2022**
- **Extension of the lower rate of VAT until at least the end of June 2022**
- **Re-introduction of grants in line with the 'Open' Grants in 2020**

This continued investment will clearly be repaid when these businesses are able to trade freely from the impact of restrictions and once again be at the heart of the economic recovery as has been proven as we fully reopened.

We remain appreciate of the support that has been given to our sector throughout the pandemic. Now without your continued support we will see large scale business failure in every community across the country to the cost of the economy, employment, our local communities and to our very way of life.

As always, we would welcome any further engagement with you and your officials to discuss these proposals.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Alton
Chief Executive Officer
British Institute of Innkeeping (BII)