



Rt. Hon. Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State,
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street,
London,
SW1P 4DF

16th July 2021

The critical need for collaboration between Local Authorities and hospitality businesses

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to you as organisations representing consumers, suppliers and operators of the UK pub and hospitality sector. The full reopening of hospitality venues across the UK in the coming weeks is a critical first step in the recovery of these viable businesses and the wider supply chain, providing essential employment in every community across the UK. Their recovery will be hard fought after seventeen months of heavy trading restrictions as they are now facing rising costs, repayments of pandemic specific debts and severe operational challenges further exasperated by self-isolating staff leading to site closures just as we reopen fully.

We would like to thank you for your confirmation this week on the long term measures allowing greater use of outdoor trading areas which is hugely welcomed. In addition the specific and encouraging recognition of the value of our sector in the Government Hospitality Strategy published today and its integral link to the High Street's Strategy and the Tourism Recovery Plan. We look forward to playing our full part at the heart of the nations' economic recovery.

We are writing to you to get your support in ensuring that Local Authorities work collaboratively and consistently as our fragile businesses start their recovery. We will now be operating our businesses through a risk assessed approach which takes into account the individual nature of each venue. Legal restrictions are being removed, replaced instead by guidance and our professional operators, working to significant legislation in licensing, food hygiene and health & safety, will implement procedures appropriate to their businesses. Inconsistency of approach by Local Authorities, sometimes pursuing enforcement activity where no requirement exists, can be hugely disruptive at this critical time. We would ask that you support an approach of collaboration through local authorities recognising that rebuilding these essential businesses is critical to the wider economic recovery.

Yours sincerely,



Emma McClarkin, Chief Executive, British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA);



Tom Stainer, Chief Executive, Campaign for Real Ale;



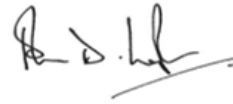
Kate Nicholls, Chief Executive, UKHospitality (UKH);



Steve Alton, Chief Executive, British Institute of Innkeeping;



James Calder, Chief Executive, Society of Independent Brewers (SIBA);



John Longden OBE, Chief Executive, Pub Is The Hub;



Rick Bailey, Independent Family Brewers of Britain (IFBB)