



**TOBY PERKINS MP**  
Member of Parliament for Chesterfield

House of Commons  
Westminster  
SW1A 0AA



Rt Hon Dr Vince Cable MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

12 April 2013

Dear Vince,

### **PubCo Regulation**

On 9 January this year you and I participated in an Opposition Day Debate on the future of pub company (PubCo) regulation.

You stood at the Despatch Box of the House of Commons and said:

*'I wrote yesterday to the Chair of the Select Committee to inform him that I wished to establish a statutory code and to proceed with public consultation.'*

**Hansard 9 Jan 2013 : Column 351**

This news was gratefully received by a hugely diverse range of campaigners for the pub trade who have long called for statutory regulation of PubCos, and together with this coalition I looked forward to the beginning of the consultation this week.

This coalition includes: CAMRA, the Federation of Small Businesses, Fair Pint, the GMB and UNITE unions, the All Party Parliamentary Save the Pub Group, the Independent Pub Confederation, the Society of Independent Brewers and the Forum of Private Business.

It was therefore with great alarm that I read a story in this week's *Mail on Sunday* which claims that your government is about to row back from this solemn commitment because your Department has been over-ruled by the Chancellor.

The fact that no consultation has begun only exacerbates my fears.

Legislation is desperately needed as the number of weekly pub closures across the country has recently reached 18 and each pub that closes leads to the loss of jobs and a community asset.

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**Toby Perkins, Labour Member of Parliament for Chesterfield**

www.tobyperkins.org.uk ☎ 0207 219 2320 ✉ toby.perkins.mp@parliament.uk

It would be a great shame if, when there is such a movement to save the trade, that the Great British pub were to be let down again because of infighting amongst the coalition partners.

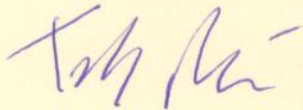
The pub trade needs certainty and needs to know that you will be taken action on their behalf.

I would therefore be very grateful if you write back to me as a matter of urgency to set out what action you will be taking to bring forward this legislation as quickly as possible.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Toby Perkins', written in a cursive style.

**Toby Perkins MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Chesterfield**  
*Shadow Minister for Small Business*