



7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Rishi Sunak MP  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road,  
London.  
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Chancellor,

With pubs able to reopen from 4<sup>th</sup> July in England we are collectively beginning the journey back to a sense of normality. As a coalition of organisations representing pub-owning and operating businesses, brewers and consumers we want to ensure that the pub sector survives the coronavirus crisis and comes back stronger than ever – creating value in the UK economy, in our social lives, reconnecting our communities, and in terms of providing the jobs, careers and skills that sustain nearly one million people.

The great British pub thrives on social interaction and we strongly believe the British people want to return to socialising, in a safe and sensible way. That is why we have invested so much in getting our pubs open in a way that helps the nation to tackle the virus. However, it is clear that the sector will need to work with Government to make sure we can make a full recovery, particularly as the nation has to live with social distancing rules, with fewer customers and higher costs.

Below we set out a package of investment measures that will bring mutual benefits to the country and the pub sector. These are focused on the economic value; the social value and the employment value that pubs deliver. It will allow us to produce more jobs, develop the nation's skills, provide the careers of the future, pay our fair share of tax and crucially to deliver services to every community throughout the country.

In the short-term we need:

- Further delivery of grants to all including those that initially missed out – with the abolition of the £51,000 threshold for eligible hospitality businesses
- Full furlough to be extended for hospitality – to secure jobs we propose that pubs do not have to contribute to furlough costs before November
- Government support on rent – building on the Code of Practice with a grant scheme to incentivise agreement between landlord and tenant on rent liabilities

To stimulate demand, we then need the Government to:

- Cut VAT to 5% for tourism and hospitality – this should apply to food and drink, accommodation and tourist attractions

- Reassure domestic and international customers – use the power of Government messaging to help our consumers feel confident to return to pubs
- Be flexible in planning and licensing – to ensure that we can provide the diversified services to our communities that were such a positive symbol of lockdown

As we move forward, we need to see:

- Reform of business rates, underpinned by a second year of a hospitality holiday – by 2022 we need to see a business rates system that truly recognises the value of business and where pubs no longer shoulder a disproportionate rates burden.
- A reformed apprenticeship and training scheme – that recognises the wide range of skills that people need and allows business to support their workforce in shaping their careers
- A brewery support package – with cuts to beer duty, sustaining the domestic and export market for our great British brewers

This ambitious package is essential in ensuring that the pub sector can return to providing value to British society – boosting the economy, providing social cohesion and being the job and skills generator it always has been. Government has rightly recognised and celebrated the role that pubs play in our communities – let's work together to continue this investment so we can all reap the benefits.

We would be delighted to discuss our plans with you or a member of your team.

Yours sincerely,



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



Tom Stainer, Chief Executive, Campaign for Real Ale;



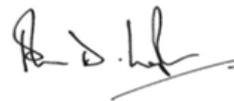
Kate Nicholls, Chief Executive, UKHospitality (UKH);



Steve Alton, Chief Executive of the British Institute of Innkeeping;



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



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