



Jane Hunt MP
House of Commons

20th January 2020

Dear local resident,

Thank you for your email about support for pubs.

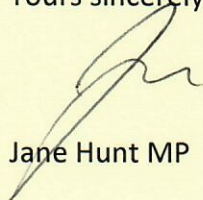
As I will say in my maiden speech today, I recognise the important role pubs play in our local communities and I am aware of the difficulties they face, particularly concerning business rates. That is why I welcome the Government's Manifesto commitment to reforming business rates for small retail businesses and pubs. You may be interested to know that this is an issue I raised with the British Beer & Pub Association at their reception last week, and one which I will be discussing with them further in due course.

As you may be aware, in the previous Parliament, the Government did implement other reforms to business rates. The Spring Budget 2017 provided a £1,000 discount on business rates bills in 2017 for pubs with a rateable value of less than £100,000 – 90 per cent of pubs in England – and this extended in the Autumn Budget 2017 for a further year, through to March 2019. In addition, a one-third discount to business rates for pubs and bars with a rateable values below £51,000 was introduced in 2018.

The Government also introduced a number of other measures to support pubs. For example, communities can list facilities of local importance through the Asset of Community Value scheme, so that, if a pub owner wishes to sell up, the community has six months to come up with a plan and funding in order to try to save it. There are now around 2,000 pubs across England listed as assets of community value. In addition, beer, cider, and spirit duties were frozen.

I hope that this information is helpful and I would like to assure you that I shall be closely following the Government's announcements in this area. If you have any further concerns about this, or anything else, please do let me know.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Hunt MP

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