



Independent Family Brewers of Britain,  
c/o Daniel Thwaites Plc,  
Mellor Brook,  
Blackburn,  
Lancashire.  
BB2 7LB

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

29 September 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

Our longest established member started their business in 1698; many of our companies are more than 100 years old. Our breweries and pubs have been an integral part of the United Kingdom's communities for hundreds of years.

The current government policy to escalate rapidly draconian new rules on pubs is the wrong tool for the wrong job.

Since the start of July there have been approximately 500 million visits to pubs in the UK. In this time there has been absolutely no indication or evidence that the opening of pubs on July 4<sup>th</sup> has contributed to a noticeable increase in Covid-19 infection and pubs have built their customers confidence.

There is very little, if any, evidence that pubs are even now a major problem in the transmission of Covid-19, yet nationwide pubs (and restaurants) are having their businesses dismantled by blanket legislation, both last week and over the past few days. This threatens their very survival, not to mention their role in their communities and the destruction of the employment that they provide.

The problems around community transmission and a rise in the R-rate lie in other sectors such as care homes and education. Targeting pubs will do almost nothing to dampen transmission, but will certainly destroy people's livelihoods, employment, hope and sanity.

Pubs are one of the last places that people can now socialise, and play a fundamental role in social cohesion and mental well-being. The measures introduced over the last days will destroy their ability to play that invaluable role over the winter months, and many millions of people will suffer as a result.

Pubs have already taken enormous steps to mobilise themselves to be able to provide their social role in a covid-secure and regulated setting. The new measures to wear masks, introduce a curfew and

prevent people from meeting friends and family are now actively pushing people away from pubs, either into social isolation or into a less secure domestic environment - neither of these are desirable.

Pubs need to be part of the solution to the current challenges, not a scapegoat to demonstrate action; particularly when the measures being introduced are illogical, have no basis in the statistical evidence and have unintended consequences, such as encouraging late night house parties with alcohol purchased from off-licenses.

There is time yet to avoid an act of catastrophic self-harm, both to our pubs and our communities, the shadow of which will be cast onto our social infrastructure far into the future.

I call for you and your government to act now to get behind pubs and assist them to play the role that they are so finely evolved for.

Please rethink the national pub curfew, masks and restrictions on gathering multiple households in a pub.

After all of the work that had been done to build confidence over the past 3 months, these harmful rules are doing untold damage now, which will be compounded in the coming weeks and over the winter months.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Bailey

Chairman, Independent Family Brewers of Britain

***For and on behalf of:***

		Established
James Arkell, Chairman	Arkell's Brewery & Donnington Brewery	1846 1865
Tim Batham, Chairman	Daniel Batham and Son	1882
Richard Bailey, Chairman	Daniel Thwaites	1807
Belinda Sutton, Managing Director	Elgood and Sons	1795
Stephen Gould, Managing Director	Everards Brewery	1849
Oliver & William Robinson, Managing Directors	Frederic Robinson	1838
Simon Emeny, Chief Executive	Fuller Smith and Turner	1845
Stuart Bateman, Managing Director	George Bateman and Son	1874
Anthony Woodhouse, Chairman	Hall and Woodhouse	1777
Hamish Elder, Managing Director	Harvey and Sons (Lewes)	1790
Jonathan Holden, Managing Director	Holden Brewery	1915
James Clarke, Managing Director	Hook Norton Brewery	1849
Rupert Thompson, Chairman	Hogsback Brewery	1995
Adam Mayers, Managing Director	Hydes Brewery	1863
John Palmer, Managing Director	JC & RH Palmer	1794
Richard Kershaw, Chairman	Joseph Holt	1849
William Lees-Jones, Managing Director	JW Lees and Co.	1828
Tom McMullen, Managing Director	McMullen and Sons	1827

Alistair Darby, Chief Executive	S.A. Brain and Company	1882
Jonathan Neame, Chief Executive	Shepherd Neame	1698
Kevin Georgel, Managing Director	St. Austell Brewery	1851
Tim Dewey, Managing Director	Timothy Taylor	1858
Keith Bott, Chairman	Titanic Brewery	2003
Charles Bartholomew, Chairman	Wadworth & Company	1875
Paul Wells, Chairman	Charles Wells	1876
Stephen Goodyear, Chairman	Young & Co's Brewery	1831
Simon Theakston, Managing Director	T & R Theakston	1827
Rob Theakston, Managing Director	Black Sheep Brewery	1992
Tom Davies, Chief Executive	WH Brakspear & Son	1711