



Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister
Welsh Government
5th Floor
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

10th May 2021

Dear First Minister

I would like to offer our sincere congratulations on your re-election as First Minister, we look forward to continuing to work together in the coming months. We are writing to you today as representatives of hundreds of Welsh pubs and breweries, employing tens of thousands of people in Wales, to implore you to confirm grant funding for hospitality businesses and their supply chain as an absolute priority and set out a timeline for the removal of all restrictions on our sector.

Although it is positive that some elements of hospitality were able to open on the 26th of April, it is vital to keep in mind that roughly half of pubs remain closed due to a lack of usable outside space. These pubs will only be able to open at all once indoor gatherings are permitted, and even then with the likely restrictions in place many will struggle to turn a profit. The grant funding that the Welsh Government has put in place over the last 12 months has doubtless saved many businesses and jobs from being lost completely, but the lack of restart grants like those in England and Scotland has severely hampered their reopening – preventing many businesses from restocking adequately and some from reopening at all. In order to prevent any more unnecessary job or business losses, please consider the following as a matter of the utmost urgency:

- A grant funding package that recognises Welsh hospitality businesses and the supply chain have been closed or under severe restrictions for considerably longer than our counterparts in England and Scotland. This needs to be a substantial and simple package of funding that reaches the businesses in need in a timescale measured in days not weeks, and also resolves the ongoing issues around state aid restrictions.
- Confirming the 17th of May as the date for indoor hospitality resuming, alongside a commitment to retaining the rule of permitting six people from up to six households meet inside hospitality premises from that date. This will prevent confusion for customers and staff, and potential conflict points that would arise from having different rules for indoor and outdoor hospitality. It is vital that the rules for indoor hospitality are confirmed urgently in order that our pubs can take bookings with reference to up-to-date restrictions.
- Set out a clear timeline for the removal of all trading restrictions and restrictions on social contact. As long as restrictions on capacity and activity remain, our sector will not be able to even begin to fully recover. The impressive progress of the vaccine

rollout should be a point of pride for the Welsh Government, but it should also be a clear factor in moving the economy towards a full reopening more rapidly.

The last 14 months have been the most challenging ever to face our sector. Billions have been lost and worse - countless livelihoods have fallen by the wayside, many of them community hubs that can never be replaced. Facing the end of this crisis we simply cannot allow avoidable job and business losses to stem from inaction in the early days of a new administration. We implore you, in the strongest possible terms, to help us.

There are over 3,000 pubs in Wales and around 120 breweries, overall we support around 42,000 jobs and contribute nearly £1bn to the economy. Our sector is key to the post-pandemic recovery economically, but crucially also in breathing life back into Welsh communities – enabling people to come together again after the most challenging period most of us will ever have faced. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss how we can work together to see that Wales' recovery is as strong and rapid as possible. We have a common interest and responsibility to ensure that is the case.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Davies
Chairman, Welsh Beer and Pub Association
CEO of Hawthorn: The Community Pub Company

Signed for and on behalf of:

Admiral Taverns	Chris Jowsey	Chief Executive
Carlsberg Marston's Brewing Company	Paul Davies	Chief Executive
Glamorgan Brewing Co	Richard Anstee	Managing Director
Greene King	Nick Mackenzie	Chief Executive
Hawthorn: The Community Pub Company	Andrew Parker	Director of Leased & Tenanted Operations
Innkeeper Wales & Cardigan Brewery	Caren Geering	Director
JW Lees Brewery	William Lees-Jones	Managing Director
Marston's PLC	Ralph Findlay	Chief Executive
Molson Coors	Martyn Cozens	On-Trade Director
Punch Pubs	Clive Chesser	Chief Executive
Robinsons Brewery	William Robinson	Managing Director
SA Brain & Co	Jon Bridge	Chief Executive
Star Pubs & Bars	Lawson Mountstevens	Managing Director