



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

15th June 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Reopening of pubs and hospitality and business rates support

As I am sure you can understand, our sector is bitterly disappointed that the Government was unable to stick to the commitment of removing all restrictions on the 21st June. It is no understatement to say that brewers, pubs and the wider hospitality sector had been looking to that date as the point at which their recovery could begin. This is because they cannot break even under the current social distancing restrictions. This is yet another setback in the toughest of periods. We understand the Government's reasons for pursuing this course of action and that public health remains the priority, but that does not change the fact that our businesses will be suffering acutely for another extended period.

It is of paramount importance that this is the last such extension to these measures and that there is reassurance of this. The recovery is being held back, this delay will cost pubs alone £400m for this initial four-week period and there will inevitably be an additional cooling effect on consumer confidence, which was already incredibly fragile. The summer months are crucial to see pubs through the year.

There also remains a large number of pubs, around 2,300, that are still been unable to open at all due to a lack of usable outside space and insufficient inside space to make social distancing work. Indeed, across the wider hospitality sector, 1 in 4 businesses or 26,000 remain closed and average trading for those open is at just 63% of usual trade. At the same time, fixed costs have risen to ensure compliance with the ongoing restrictions. This is untenable.

The absolutely critical immediate term issue for our sector following the latest delay is the repayment of business rates in England, which commences either partially or fully from 1st July. This was clearly aligned to Step 4 of the roadmap.

We urge that your Government now delay the reintroduction of business rates payments by at least three months to allow pubs and hospitality businesses in England to recover the additional losses that will now be incurred in this period. The additional bill of some £93 million pounds in July alone will be crippling.

The Government should also prioritise the additional £1.5bn business rates support package that was announced in March to ensure eligible businesses such as brewers can apply as soon as possible.

Whilst the delay sets back our recovery, we remain ready and willing to work with the Government on the longer-term Hospitality Strategy. We will continue to work with your teams to deliver stability and growth for the sector, once the short-term immediate needs have been addressed to prevent business failure and job losses. We can be partners in the Government's aim to level up the economy and build back better the UK's nations and regions. As ever, we remain available at your convenience to discuss the important matters raised above.

Yours sincerely



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



Tom Stainer, Chief Executive, Campaign for Real Ale;



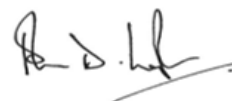
Kate Nicholls, Chief Executive, UKHospitality (UKH);



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;



Rick Bailey, Independent Family Brewers of Britain (IFBB)