

# CAMRA Manifesto 2017 #pledgeforpubs

Beer, brewing and pubs support nearly 900,000 jobs in the UK, and contribute £23.1bn to the UK economy annually.

Pubs are a uniquely British institution which showcase our nation's brewing tradition and also provide essential community facilities for those that use them. Research from Oxford University found that people who regularly use a local pub have more friends, are happier and more trusting of others and feel more engaged with their communities.

## About CAMRA

CAMRA is a consumer group with more than 187,000 members and acts as an independent voice for real ale drinkers and pub goers. Our vision is to have quality real ale and thriving pubs in every community.

## Pledges:

CAMRA is asking General Election candidates to pledge their support for Britain's pub goers and beer drinkers by committing to do the following if elected:

- 1. Beer:** Celebrate and promote Britain's 1,540 breweries
- 2. Pubs:** Support action to help pubs thrive
- 3. Consumers:** Represent the interests of pub goers, beer and cider drinkers

## Pulling together to support pubs and clubs:

Pubs face a huge tax burden, including VAT, excise duties, business rates, corporation tax and other pub-specific regulatory costs. In total £9.7bn in taxes are paid across the beer and pubs sector per year. Tax makes up around one third of the cost of a pint sold in a pub.

Pubs pay 2.8% of the total amount paid in business rates, but account for only 0.5% of total business turnover. The Pubs Business Rate Relief Scheme in England goes some way to alleviating the business rates burden on pubs. **The Pubs Relief Scheme should be made permanent and extended to £5,000 per pub per year.**



## I'm backing Beer and Pubs



Britain's expected departure from the EU will present opportunities for the UK Government to re-balance the tax differential between the on-trade and the off-trade, and demonstrate support for the vast majority of consumers who drink responsibly and in social environments.

- **Consideration should be given to introducing a more favourable rate of VAT for on-trade alcohol and food service which will ease the tax burden specifically for on-trade licensed venues.**
- **A lower rate of duty for draught beer sold in pubs should be introduced to alleviate disproportionate taxation and recognise the social benefits of alcohol being consumed in regulated, social environments.**

How candidates can sign up and pledge their support

Visit [www.camra.org.uk/pledgeforpubs](http://www.camra.org.uk/pledgeforpubs)

Email [campaigns@camra.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@camra.org.uk)

Phone **01727 798 447**



In 2016 the Government introduced a Pubs Code and Adjudicator in England and Wales to govern the relationship between large pub companies and their licensees. This followed many years of CAMRA's campaigning against the short term business practices of large pub companies which led to underinvestment in pubs, pub closures and high prices. **The Pubs Code must remain in place, and support for licensees should be further improved. In addition the behaviour of the large pub companies should be kept under active review.**

### Pulling together to support beer and cider:

Three consecutive cuts in beer duty from 2013-2015, followed by a freeze in 2016, gave the sector a huge boost.

However the brewing sector and the jobs it supports are under pressure following the 2p a pint increase announced in the 2017 Spring Budget. **In order to support the industry and protect consumers, there should be a beer duty freeze for the whole of the next Parliament.**



Support for small breweries has been critical to their success. The number of small brewers more than doubled in the last decade to 1,540. Britain's smallest breweries currently pay 50% less beer duty than large breweries in recognition of the higher costs associated with small scale production. **Small Breweries' Relief should be retained and improved to address current disincentives to brewery growth and investment.**

Current European restrictions on duty will be lifted, allowing the UK Government greater freedom to apply lower duty to lower strength beer. **The UK Government should extend the current 50% duty reduction for beers at or below 2.8% abv to all beers with an abv at or below 3.5%, a more realistic level which reflects the range of beers available in most pubs.**

Cider makers who produce less than 7,000 litres a year are currently exempt from paying alcohol duty which enables small scale production to flourish. **The existing duty exemption for small cider producers should be retained, alongside action to encourage growth with a sliding scale of duty relief for cider producers above this limit.**

**Finally, as well as seizing the opportunities it presents, the Government should take steps to identify any potentially adverse impacts on the UK's beer and pub sector of our exit from the European Union, and put in place measures to address these.**

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