



**Tommy Sheppard**

Member of Parliament for Edinburgh East  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

CEO Pub Company

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to ask you if you will support the campaign to introduce a rent freeze for pub landlords during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you will know, all pubs have closed following government guidance leaving them with no income. Several supports have been put in place and these are welcome, but the reality is that many pub licensees they are facing tens of thousands of pounds in rent arrears.

I am writing to all pub companies signed up to the Pub Code, Scotland, to cancel rents for their tenants while the pandemic keeps pub doors closed. You will know that paragraph 25 of the code states "Companies will set out their policy for dealing with requests for assistance from tenants arising from circumstances where it can be demonstrated that their business has been adversely affected by a material change in circumstance beyond their control." It is hard to think of anything which could be further beyond the control of your tenants than closure enforced by the government in response to the current epidemic.

I am pleased to note that Admiral Taverns Limited have done this for the month of April and will review it each month. I would urge PUB COMPANY to do the same. As you will know, pubs are a vital part of Edinburgh's culture and economy and I would hope that pub companies such as yourselves would lead by example. In doing so you will help ensure your tenants and many of our favourite pubs survive the current crisis and are able to spring back into action once it ends.

I would appreciate an update on your thoughts on this and on what actions PUB COMPANY are able to take to support pub landlords.

Yours sincerely

Tommy Sheppard MP

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