

## **Pulling up the drawbridge**

Dear \*insert local MP here\*

Today the Government has announced that it will reduce the threshold at which Small Brewers Duty Relief starts to taper from 5000hl of annual production to 2100hl. This represents a huge threat to the livelihoods of many small brewers, who are already facing existential threats posed by Covid-19.

This move has long been agitated for by The Small Brewers Duty Reform Coalition, who are led by Rupert Thompson of Hogs Back Brewery. They, and a number of larger, regional breweries, stand to benefit from a flattening of the duty curve, paid for at the expense of smaller brewers producing between 2,100 to 5,000hl annually.

Their actions are purely self-interested; they do not, as they claim, seek to make beer duty payments fairer, but to pull the ladder up and prevent smaller brewers from benefiting from duty relief that they themselves have already received. There are around 150 breweries in the UK who sit between 2,100hl and 5,000hl of production volume, and who will under the proposals announced today see the beer duty they pay increase.

There's already been a strong criticism of the change from The Society of Independent Brewers, and a number of prominent brewers have already come out against it. This move will cause irreparable damage to the beer industry, and destroy the livelihoods of so many who have worked so hard to improve the fortunes of British Beer. Many small breweries, who are already having to lay off staff will now face higher duty at a time when they are already teetering on the edge of oblivion.

I'd strongly urge you to speak to breweries likely to be affected by this change, and get their very vocal support heard. These breweries provide jobs, income, and foster a community all across the UK, and do not deserve to have the rug pulled from under them at a time when things are already so hard.

I am well connected within the brewing industry and can put you in touch with the owners of some of these companies if you would like to learn more about how this change will negatively impact their businesses.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Kind regards,

\*insert your name, address and telephone number here\* to prove you are a constituent