

Pubs Code Consultation Part One published



29 October 2015

Plans designed to ensure large pub-owning businesses deal fairly with thousands of tied pub tenants have been announced today by Business Minister Anna Soubry.

The first of a two-part consultation on a new Pubs Code sets out how the 'market rent only' option will work. It implements the principle that a tenant tied to a business owning 500 or more tied pubs should be no worse off than a free-of-tie tenant. Up to 13,000 tied tenants in England and Wales will be protected by the Code. The second stage of the consultation, to be published soon, will cover the remaining elements of the Code.

Business Minister Anna Soubry is quoted as saying:

"Pubs are the lifeblood of so many of our towns, villages and high-streets, playing a vital role supporting our local economies. It's not right that some tied pub tenants are unfairly overcharged by their landlords and the Pubs Code will help ensure they get a fair deal. I'm looking forward to hearing from pub companies and tenants on these important proposals to put the industry on the strongest possible footing"

The Pubs Code is intended to help ensure fair dealing for tied tenants while minimising as far as possible burdens on business. At the same time, the intention is that the proposals will not reduce the current level of tenants' protections under the industry's voluntary code of practice.

The consultation runs until 14 December 2015. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is seeking views, particularly from pub-owning businesses, tied tenants and their representatives. Those views should be sent by email to pubs.consultation@bis.gsi.gov.uk or by post to The Pubs Code and Adjudicator Team, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, 2nd floor, Orchard 2, 1 Victoria Street London SW1H 0ET.

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