



HM Treasury

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London  
SW1A 2HQ

The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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3 December 2020

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 30 November on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] regarding Beer Duty. The Treasury has received unprecedented amounts of correspondence since the start of the coronavirus outbreak in the UK. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has asked me to write to you directly.

The Government recognises the important contribution that the beer and pub industry make to British culture. That is why the Government announced a freeze on the duties on beer at Budget 2020. The tax cuts at Budget 2013, 2014 and 2015 – followed by further duty freezes in 2016, 2017 and 2018 – mean that the average tax charged on a typical pint of beer is estimated to be 16p lower this year than it otherwise would have been since ending the beer duty escalator in 2013. In fact, beer duty is now at its lowest level for 30 years in real terms.

The Government appreciate that pubs have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and for that reason the Government has announced an unprecedented package of support. The Government has given pubs a business rate holiday and lower rates of VAT on any food they sell. Pubs and brewers have been able to defer taxes and put workers on furlough. In addition, many pubs benefited from the "Eat Out to Help Out" scheme.

The Treasury carefully considers the effects of any changes to alcohol duties and aims to strike a balance between addressing alcohol harms, raising revenue

