

MC2016/26703



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

The Rt Hon George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
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03 FEB 2017

Dear George

Thank you for your letter of 15 December about cider duty.

I am aware, not least from my previous role as Minister for Public Health, of the health and social harms associated with excessive alcohol consumption and with white ciders particularly. I would like to reassure you that the Government is committed to reducing excessive alcohol consumption and tackling the related health harms.

The Government has taken targeted action through the duty system to encourage responsible consumption of alcohol. During the last Parliament, these measures included an additional duty on high strength beer and the introduction of a ban on the sale of alcohol priced below duty plus value added tax.

During the Finance Bill 2016 debate on cider duty on 6 September, I made it clear that the Treasury is always ready to listen to views on cheap drinks associated with alcohol harms and I would like to thank you for your proposal. We have asked stakeholders for further evidence on how these drinks could be sufficiently targeted to avoid penalising the responsible drinker.

Thank you for taking the trouble to make us aware of these concerns. I will consider this issue carefully, alongside all other stakeholder representations in the run up to the Budget.

*Always very welcome to have the news of
Parliamentary colleagues.*

With kind regards

JANE ELLISON

Jane