



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

February 2016

Dear Constituent,

Thanks for contacting me about the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) and the beer duty.

Pubs play a crucial role in the social and economic life of our nation. As a key part of the Government's long-term economic plan, the pub sector is being supported in a range of ways.

Through the Asset of Community Value scheme, communities can list facilities of local importance, such as pubs. This means that if a pub owner wishes to sell, the community has six months to come up with a plan and funding in order to try to save it. I am glad that more than 800 pubs have been listed in this way.

New measures will also ensure that tied pubs are given new rights under a statutory code with an independent adjudicator to resolve disputes. Many pubs have also benefited from the Government's package on business rates for small businesses.

I welcome that tax on a typical pint of beer will be cut by 1p and that the beer duty escalator has been removed. The average pint of beer is 8p cheaper as a result.

There is also greater flexibility on weights and measures, allowing beer and wine to be sold in different sizes. In addition to this, it is now easier for pubs to play live music and £350,000 has been provided for the Pub is The Hub initiative and the Plunkett Foundation to help landlords diversify and provide essential services such as village shops and post offices.

Once again, many thanks for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY