

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Financial Secretary to the Treasury  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London SW1A 2HQ

13<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Dear Sajid,

Beer duty

I am writing to urge you to freeze or further reduce beer duty in the Budget on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Whilst I was pleased that the Government abolished the beer duty escalator at the 2013 Budget and understand the need to prioritise restoring public finances, I believe that a freeze or further reduction in beer duty would build on the positive impact of last year's 2% duty reduction.

I believe that a beer duty freeze is essential to:-

- Retaining more than 900,000 jobs dependent on the beer and pub sector;
- Growing the value added by beer and pubs to the UK economy from the current level of £22 billion a year and;
- Ensuring that the annual £3.4 billion contribution from beer duty to Government tax revenues is not eroded as a result of falling production.

2,400 jobs would be secured this year alone as a result of a freeze in beer duty this year.

I would be grateful if you could give this issue attention in advance of the Budget as freezing beer duty would be a welcome relief to hard working businesses in the pubs and beer sector across the country.

Yours sincerely,

**Peter Aldous**  
**Member of Parliament for Waveney**