



SIBA Board
Society of Independent Brewers and Associates
Springfield Garage
Dallamires Lane
Ripon, HG4 1TT

Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
Westminster, London
W1A 2HQ

4 December 2025

Dear Chancellor

As members of the Board of the Society of Independent Brewers and Associates (SIBA) we represent around 700 independent breweries, operating at the heart of our communities across the UK. We are an integral part of the UK's brewing and pub sector that as a whole supports one million jobs and pays £18 billion in taxes.

We take this unprecedented step of jointly writing to you to express our deep concern at the impact of last week's business rates decisions on the hospitality sector. We would urge you to work in partnership with the devolved nations to look at what further immediate support can be provided to help the industry. Measures could include widening the business rates discount for pubs from 5 pence to 20 pence and delaying the revaluations.

As a sector, we were optimistic of your pledges to reform business rates to help address the iniquitous tax imbalance between traditional business and online tech giants. As a percentage of turnover we pay tax at four times that of those global businesses which has always struck us as deeply unfair.

While we were disappointed that you didn't take the opportunity in your Budget to lower duty on draught beer sold in pubs, the sector were initially heartened by your announcement of increased support on business rates and to make the hospitality relief permanent. However, once the revaluations are taken into account and the transitional relief unwinds, pubs will now typically pay 76% more in business rates whilst online tech giants only pay 16% more. The imbalance is widening still further. The promises made seem to be at odds with the reality that community pubs now face.



With pub closures at a new high and having lost more than 100 breweries in the past year, the hospitality sector is in a fragile state. These changes to business rates could be the difference between closure and survival for businesses that operate as the beating heart of communities and bring people together when society needs it most.

We would be happy to host you at one of our independent breweries to discuss this further and explore options to maintain our brewing and pub sector.

Yours sincerely

Richard Naisby (Chair)
Milton Brewery

Anthony Hughes (Vice Chair)
Lincoln Green Brewing Co

Paul Arrowsmith
Isca Ales

Matthew Ashford
Oakham Ales

Sam Back
Attic Brew Co

Alex Balchin
Wold Top Brewery

Anneli Baxter
Loose Cannon Brewing Co

Alan Collyer
The Exeter Brewery

Ben Croston
Fuzzy Duck Brewery

Jamie Delap
Fyne Ales

Paul Dimond
Branscombe Vale Brewery



Libby Elswood
Goffs Brewery

Tom Foddy
Wells & Co

Ian Fozard
Rooster's Brewery

Andy Hayward
Thames Side Brewery

Dave Hayward
Indie Rabble

Dr Malcolm Herbert
Core of the Poodle

Paul Jones
Cloudwater Brew Co

Joe Joyce
Harrogate Brewing

Conall Low
Wasted Degrees Brewing

William Mayne
Bullhouse Brewing Co

Ian McGrath
Beath Brewing

Chris Morris
Modest Beer Brewing Co

John Morrisey
Vocation Brewery

Andy Parker
Elusive Brewing

Ian Rydings
Leigh on Sea Brewery



Philip Thomas
Bragdy Twt Lol Brewery

Sara Webber
S A Brain & Co

Paul Hegarty
Non-Executive Director

Laura Mackie
Non-Executive Director

Jim Monteith
Non-Executive Director

Francis Patton
Non-Executive Director