



Pubs Code Adjudicator

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16 March 2020

Emma McClarkin
Chief Executive
British Beer & Pub Association
Ground Floor
Brewers' Hall
Aldermanbury Square
London
EC2V 7HR

COVID-19

Dear Emma,

Thank you for the BBPA's letter of 12 March 2020 on behalf of the six regulated pub-owning businesses (POBs) and their Code Compliance Officers (CCOs).

We welcome the confirmation that the CCOs are proactively assessing the risks that COVID-19 poses to Code compliance within their businesses and that they are taking steps to mitigate factors that may impact on their ability to meet their statutory obligations. In that context, we note in particular the commitment by the POBs to ensuring that tied pub tenants continue to be treated fairly and lawfully as required by the Pubs Code.

The PCA will take this mitigation and the current exceptional circumstances into account as appropriate in its regulatory interactions with POBs. We would always encourage CCOs to self-report to us any concerns they may have about their POB's compliance with the Code as part of that process of mitigation. The Office of the PCA is, of course, available to discuss these ongoing pressures with CCOs as required.

In the meantime, the CCOs should be aware that we expect the POBs to be giving active consideration, in line with the core Pubs Code principles, to how they can ensure that individual tied pub tenants do not lose out on their Pubs Code rights, and are given support so that their businesses can come through this challenging period.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Newby
Pubs Code Adjudicator

Fiona Dickie
Deputy Pubs Code Adjudicator