



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

Helen Whately MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Your ref: HW/WA
28 FEB 2017

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your letter of 10 February to Philip Hammond enclosing correspondence from your constituents about beer duty. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The Government continues to support the beer and pubs industry across the UK, and it recognises the important contribution this industry makes to promoting responsible drinking, providing employment and community life. Previous action taken to support pubs means that a pint of beer is now ten pence lower than it otherwise would have been since ending the beer duty escalator in 2013. This particularly helps pubs as nearly two thirds of the alcohol sold in pubs is beer.

The Government made the decision not to make changes to beer duty at Autumn Statement. This followed a duty freeze at Budget 2016, along with three previous beer duty cuts, demonstrating the Government's commitment to support for this sector.

All taxes are kept under review at fiscal events, and the views expressed to us are carefully considered as part of that process.

Please pass on my thanks to your constituents for taking the trouble to make us aware of these concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Ellison".

JANE ELLISON

