

**JEREMY QUIN MP**  
Member of Parliament for Horsham



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th February 2017

*Dear Constituent,*

**RE: PUNCH TAVERNS PLC**

Thank you for contacting me about the proposed takeover of Punch Taverns PLC by Heineken.

While I appreciate the concerns that have been expressed over the potential move, this remains a commercial matter.

The Dutch are the European country that has the closest equivalence to our culture in which the "local" can play an important role in a community. I suspect Heineken understand how important it would be to respect that tradition and the position of pub landlords post their acquisition, if they are successful. Any owners of a large pub chain that wished to see it prosper, in my view, would be very focussed on the huge variety of different beers which are now available in the UK (including from thriving local brewers in the Horsham area) and will be aware of their popularity with the drinking public.

The offer currently rests with Punch shareholders for agreement in the coming weeks. This will, of course, be subject to regulatory approval and receive appropriate scrutiny from the competition authorities.

More broadly, I am a firm supporter of pubs here in the constituency and know they play an important role in communities across the UK. I am proud of the action taken to back pubs, including three cuts in beer duty, and have no doubt of the Government's support for the British pub.

As you may be aware, the Pubs Code came into force last July, giving tenants more rights and greater protection when dealing with large pub companies that own tied pubs. An independent adjudicator has also been set up to help ensure tied tenants are treated fairly by pub companies.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.