

ALMR Press Release

Friday 3rd April **Release: Immediate**

ALMR calls for trade to work together to support lessees

ALMR Chief Executive, Nick Bish, today urged all sides to stop squabbling about statistics and start working together to stop the rot and help pubs survive and thrive.

Responding to statistics published by the GMB Union and BBPA on pub closures, he said:

“Arguing about where the greatest number of pub closures is happening is beside the point and belittles the human misery behind the raw numbers. It also lets the Government off the hook because it ignores the role that red tape, over regulation and legislative costs are playing.

“The fact is that outlets of all types are closing in ever greater numbers. Pubco outlets form part and parcel of the decline in the total pub estate - whether it is a quarter, a third or a half of all closures, you cannot get away from the fact that those outlets are closing. The tie itself is not causing pubs to close, but the way in which it is being operated in the current market place is.”

The ALMR is currently working with others within the industry and politicians of all parties to develop a package of measures to deliver better support to lessees. This is a multi-layered approach to address issues such as the fairer and more transparent division of the profits, more effective dispute resolution and measures to improve liquidity and cashflow within the business.

Nick Bish concluded: “We would do lessees and the industry as a whole more of a service if we stopped debating the numbers and started focusing on the solutions.”

<<ENDS>>

Notes to Editors

- ALMR is the only national trade body solely dedicated to representing the interests of pub and bar operators, and to providing them with business support and advice. It has almost 100 member companies, operating over 15,000 outlets.
- The GMB Union this week published figures suggesting that 1131 outlets owned by seven major pub companies had closed since December 2005. The BBPA claims this represents a quarter of all closures within the period. Research prepared by CGA for the ALMR reveals that, in absolute terms, 1725 pubs have closed since December 2005. Looking at net closures, between December 2005 and December 2008, 64 outlets per week were lost and there were 34 net closures per week from the pubco estate.
- For more information, please contact: Kate Nicholls: 07938 796 238 or Nick Bish 07831 778993