

# ALMR Press Notice

---

*Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers*

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2010 - Immediate**

## **Hand up not a hand out**

The *ALMR* welcomed the today's announcement by the Pubs Minister, Rt Hon John Healey, of a comprehensive package of support for community pubs as the first serious attempt to address the complex, inter-linked reasons behind recent record levels of pub closures. The organisation, which represents pub and bar operators warned that a helping hand for those good operators struggling to cope with increasing regulatory costs was as important as a hand out for those who need saving.

Chief Executive, Nick Bish, said:

"We are delighted that the Government has at last woken up to the social, economic and cultural importance of the UK's pubs and is taking us seriously as an industry. The reasons behind the recent spate of pub closures are many and complex and Mr Healey displays a good understanding of the politics and economics underpinning those.

Pubs are not looking for a hand-out but they do need a hand up to ensure that they have the flexibility and freedom to retail profitably and responsibly. Today's announcement shows that the Government recognises that regulatory intervention may be required to deliver that fair and open market. We are disappointed, however, that there is no reference to the unfair competition pubs face from pocket money prices, deep discounting and irresponsible promotions in supermarkets. That is the last piece of the jigsaw to be addressed and we urge the Government to complete the picture.

The proposals announced today mirror those put forward by the *ALMR* and the Independent Pub Confederation when we met the Minister recently and we are delighted he has taken them on board. They are the same proposals put forward by lessee groups during last Autumn's mediation and it remains a deep disappointment that more progress could not be made to address them at that stage."

### **Notes for Editors**

1. See link to BIS announcement [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)
2. The Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (*ALMR*) is the only national trade body dedicated to representing the interests of pub and bar operators and providing their companies with business support and advice. There are currently 80 companies in membership, between them operating 15,000 outlets – of which more than 4,000 are managed operations. The bulk of *ALMR* membership is drawn from small independent companies operating 50 outlets or fewer under their own branding

For Further information please contact

Kate Nicholls on 07958 796238 or

Nick Bish on 020 8579 2080 or 07831 778993,

**The Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers**

9B Walpole Court, Ealing Studios, London, W5 5ED

Tel: **020 8579 2080** Fax: 020 8579 7579 E-mail: [info@almr.org.uk](mailto:info@almr.org.uk)