

**ALMR Press Notice**  
***Championing Pubs & Bars***

**24 January – immediate**

**Government urged to cut hospitality and tourism red tape**

**ALMR welcomes ideas to slash bureaucracy in one of UK's most vital sectors**

Ideas on cutting red tape in the hospitality and tourism sector, put forward by a DCMS-commissioned independent taskforce, have today been welcomed by the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (*ALMR*).

The plans, set out in the report entitled [Smart Regulation and Economic Growth – Seizing the Tourism Agenda](#), which could help pubs and bars, include:

- Having an annual date for ALL premises licences to be renewed
- Ending the requirement for premises licence applicants to advertise in the local press, in addition to offering on-site notices
- Review legislation around when local authorities are allowed to reconsider their licensing policies
- Recognition of tourism in future planning policy
- Compulsory mediation before employee issues reach an employment tribunal

Other areas covered in the report include: health and safety; fire regulations and food labelling.

Commenting on the proposals, Kate Nicholls, *ALMR* Strategic Affairs Director said: “This report recognises the vital contribution that the hospitality and tourism sector makes to the UK economy – such as providing more than 1.3 million jobs – and we welcome that.

“However, as the report also identifies, hospitality is one of the most heavily regulated industries in the UK, with a huge amount of burdensome red tape.”

The 2006 Elton Report highlighted similar issues that this report identifies, yet these concerns were not acted upon.

Nicholls added: “A bonfire of red tape is long overdue and we would urge the government to consider these proposals carefully, while at the same time being careful not to add more unnecessary bureaucracy.

“Another area the *ALMR* would urge the government to look at is cutting VAT to 5% in the hospitality sector. This would offer a genuine boost.

“Ten years ago our industry created one in five new jobs, now that figure is one in 10. A VAT cut would really free us up to deliver more new opportunities again.”

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

- The proposals, which cover areas such as planning and use classes regulations, travel insurance, food labelling, health and safety rules, employment restrictions in the tourism sector, licensing and many other areas of concern to the industry, will now be considered across Government.
- The *ALMR* is the only national trade body dedicated to representing the interests of modern bar and pub restaurant operators. Between them, our members operate just under 11,000 outlets.
- For more information or further comment call Kate Nicholls on 07958 796238.