



# Press Release

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*Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers*

**1 June 2004**

## **ALMR Welcomes Gordon Brown's Announcements on Red Tape**

ALMR today welcomed the Government's plans to legislate to reduce red tape, which it now confirms as a major barrier to continuing economic growth. The burden falls especially heavily on the British licensed retail sector, including on all of ALMR's member companies.

The Queen's Speech included plans to reduce red tape which followed the work of the Hampton Review on this vital issue. Gordon Brown MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has now committed the Government to a new bill which will replace unnecessary rules with a "risk-based" approach. Business leaders are to be consulted on which regulations should be stripped out or simplified.

Mr Brown has said inspectors would in future target "bad traders", rather than continuing a system where "everyone was inspected continuously".

Nick Bish from the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers said: "These plans represent an excellent new start towards solving the huge problems caused by pointless regulation. We have made our concerns known to the Government over many years and it is good to see now that they have been listening." However, he added that problems would remain. "The local licensing authorities are still planning to go out regularly to undertake inspections once the Licensing Act comes into effect, and they want to recover the cost from publicans. But this is simply not necessary," he said. " - the proposed risk-based inspection regime is welcomed by the industry, but only if those implementing it use a degree of common sense. Clearly we should be pleased that something as high risk as aeroplanes should be regularly inspected for airworthiness; it is not, however, necessary to create an equivalent regime of rigorous checks on signs and certificates in pubs up and down the land."

**ENDS**

## **Notes for Editors**

1. The Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (*ALMR*) is the only national trade body dedicated to representing the interests of on-trade retailers – principally pub, bar, club and restaurant operators. Unlike other trade bodies it does not represent producer interests. The focus and drive of the Association is therefore the small-scale entrepreneurial and innovative operator, and we are keen to ensure that this is reflected in the way in which our audiences view us.
2. Currently, just fewer than 100 companies are in membership, between them operating more than 30,000 outlets – around half the UK pub and bar estate. Member companies include the major tenanted pub companies such as Punch Taverns and Enterprise Inns, the retail arms of regional brewers such as Fuller Smith & Turner and Charles Wells and major managed operators like Laurel However, the bulk of our membership is derived from small independent companies operating 50 outlets or less under their own branding - niche operators such as Glendola Leisure, Massive and Inventive Leisure.
3. For Further information please contact Nick Bish on 020 8579 2080
4. Further details of the Government's plans for reducing red tape can be found at: [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom\\_and\\_speeches/press/2005/press\\_50\\_05.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2005/press_50_05.cfm)

### **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