

ALMR Press Notice

Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers

25 January 2008

ALMR CALLS FOR GREATER RELIEF FOR ENTREPRENEURS

The *ALMR* today welcomed the Chancellor's announcement that he would introduce a new "entrepreneurs relief rate" into his plans to reform Capital Gains Tax from April 2008, but called for more help for the 'serial entrepreneurs' who make up the pub industry.

The Chancellor announced plans to replace the current system of taper relief with a flat tax rate of 18% from April 2008 in the Pre-Budget Report in October. Since then, the *ALMR* has been lobbying hard on the impact of the proposals, as well as putting forward its own alternatives for reform. Yesterday, the Chancellor confirmed it will set a single 18% rate and cease taper relief from 1 April - but the existing 10% rate would be maintained for gains of up to £1million in a lifetime.

Chief Executive, Nick Bish, said:

"This announcement goes some way towards addressing our concerns. The 80% tax hike would have hit the pub trade hard because of the large investment in high cost assets. But because the £1million threshold is cumulative, the concession will do little to help the serial entrepreneurs who are the backbone of our industry.

Our members are not city fat cats running private equity firms; they are hard working small businessmen – most of them are serial entrepreneurs, re-investing the gains made from developing their pubs and bars in new business ventures. These proposals will actively impair this virtuous cycle."

The *ALMR* has repeatedly called for the 10% rate to be applied where any capital gains are re-invested in a new business venture – whatever the size of gain - and will continue to press for further amendments to be made.

Nick Bish concluded:

"This is a mess of the Chancellor's own making. The way in which the change has been handled has badly damaged trust between business and his Government. However welcome yesterday's announcement is, it does little to repair that relationship."

-ENDS-

Notes for Editors

1. *The Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (ALMR) is the only national trade body dedicated to representing the interests of pub, club, bar and restaurant operators. Its members are predominantly small, independent managed companies and providing their companies with business support and advice. There are currently 76 managed companies in membership, between them operating 4,300 outlets – around 40% of all managed outlets in England and Wales. Of these companies, 80% have an estate of fewer than 50 outlets.*

For Further information please contact

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

Kate Nicholls on 07958 796238