

# **ALMR Press Notice**

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*Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers*

**4 April 2008**

## **ALMR APPLAUDS MINISTER'S SUPPORT**

The Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers has applauded the comments made by Licensing Minister Gerry Sutcliffe this week, demonstrating his support for the British bar and pub industry.

Sutcliffe said that the industry is 'right to be upset' with Alistair Darling over unjust tax hikes announced in last month's budget, and urged landlords and industry groups to step up pressure on the Treasury to back down and ease the tax burden shouldered by Britain's pubs and bars.

The *ALMR's* Chief Executive Nick Bish said:

"Gerry Sutcliffe's comments are a breath of fresh air from a Government that appears intent on seeing the demise of the British pub. His sympathy for those facing the potentially fatal impact of the Treasury's year-on-year tax hikes sets him apart from his fellow Ministers and demonstrates his understanding of the sector. It's a pity his senior colleagues in Government are not so enlightened and have forced him to climb down on the issue rather than accepting this clear warning on the very real consequences of their tax policy for our industry.

The *ALMR* will continue to campaign for both a change of priorities and a change of policies in Westminster."

### Notes for Editors

- The *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.
- 90 companies are members. Between them, they operate 15,000 outlets - of which more than 4,000 are managed operations.
- Most *ALMR* members are small, independent companies, operating 50 or fewer outlets under their own branding.

### For further information, please contact

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**Notes for Editors**

1. *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 89 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

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