

## **BISH BASHES BORIS**

The Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (ALMR) has hit out at claims by Boris Johnson in today's *Evening Standard* (April 18), suggesting that many of London's pubs and clubs need careful monitoring by a 'London alcohol czar'.

Johnson's argument is contrary to Home Office figures published on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2008 after a huge crackdown entitled the 'Responsible Alcohol Sales Campaign'. Despite the investigation of over 1,700 'poorly managed' licensed premises, the crackdown resulted in just one being closed down and one other licence being reviewed.

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

"Boris Johnson has got it wrong; this is a knee-jerk reaction to a problem that is, in fact, a myth. The figures from the Home Office 'Responsible Alcohol Sales Campaign' prove this.

"It is time to stop criticising Britain's pubs and suggesting they are the source of alcohol-related problems. Pubs are generally very good at tackling underage drinking and problems of drunkenness; furthermore, they are a venue for local people to interact and they help build community cohesion."

### 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. Members include the Capital Pub Company (based in London), Enterprise Inns (Solihull) and Peninsula Inns (Torquay).

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