

ALMR PRESS RELEASE

ALMR SAYS 'CHEERS' TO PEERS

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The Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers has called on publicans and pub-goers to raise a glass to the House of Lords, which has just given a double boost to the British pub.

First, an opinion poll of 155 peers, by respected Westminster pollsters Dods, found that the overwhelming majority agreed with the strongly-worded statement that "the traditional local pub is central to communities across the UK". In response, *ALMR* Chairman Tim Sykes said:

"Landlords and landladies across the country should congratulate the 85% of Lords and Ladies in Parliament who recognise the importance of local pubs to local communities. Pubs are central to the British way of life; they make vital contributions to the local and national economies; and they promote social rather than drunken drinking. It's re-assuring that their Lordships recognise this. On pubs, peers seem much closer to public opinion than their counterparts in the House of Commons."

Secondly, an influential Lords body - The House of Lords Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee - has slammed the quality of the Government's Alcohol Disorder Zone (ADZ) proposals. The Committee, which scrutinises Government regulations and assesses their standards, found that it was "not clear why this policy was required". It added: "We are left with the impression that the system will be unduly bureaucratic".

Such findings followed the Committee's equally damning conclusions in January - when its criticism of Government 'spin' on ADZs led to the regulations being temporarily withdrawn.

Nick Bish, *ALMR* Chief Executive, commented:

"Ministers should call time on this ridiculous policy. This has been the most legislation-happy Government in history. It's time they stopped trying to force through daft new laws and started properly enforcing existing ones. We should all be pleased there are Lords to police this Government Disorder Zone.

