

Government, Know Your Limits – Jobs Threat from Proposed Alcohol Code, Warns ALMR

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MPs are being called upon to safeguard jobs in the leisure industry ahead of Parliament's second reading of the Policing and Crime Bill on Monday. Leading pub and bar group the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (*ALMR*) says that the Government risks adding to the country's unemployment woes if it enforces an over-prescriptive code of practice on pub landlords in England and Wales.

New figures from the Association show that in 2008 alone some 17,400 jobs were lost to the economy by pub closures. Home Office estimates show that the Government's code of practice will cost pubs and bars a minimum of £485 - £1195 and as much as £11,238 each per annum, threatening further closures and jobs losses. Conditions imposed on pubs could include mandatory training for anyone serving alcohol, the provision of 125ml wine glasses and the provision of point of sale information. Moreover, Home Office documents concede that "there is the potential for significant transitional costs including job losses and the closure of small businesses."

The *ALMR* is the only organisation that works to help pub and bar operators implement new laws and regulations by acting as a forum for its members to share operational experience and advising on best practice. Its core membership are smaller independent companies operating at every level in the market.

Nick Bish, *ALMR* Chief Executive, is available for comment both ahead of and after Monday's debate.

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Note to Editors

- *ALMR* is the only national trade body solely dedicated to representing the interests of pub and bar operators, and to providing them with business support and advice. It has almost 100 member companies, operating over 15,000 outlets.
- All figures are based on estimates provided in the Home Office Regulatory Impact Assessment- which accompanies the Policing and Crime Bill. This can be found online at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ia-police-crime-bill-08/ia-alcohol-code-practice?view=Binary>
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