

## ***ALMR Welcomes Grogan's Warning***

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January

**Release: Immediate**

Leading pub and bar group the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (*ALMR*) today welcomed comments by John Grogan, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Beer Group, in last night's Policing and Crime Bill debate. Mr. Grogan called on the Government to ensure that it's proposed alcohol code does not add to pubs' existing mountain of red tape, which could lead to an increase in the numbers of pubs closing.

Commenting, *ALMR* Chief Executive Nick Bish says:

"We welcome John Grogan's highlighting of the potential cost of the new code. Our industry is well aware of the harm that overzealous, untargeted and excessive regulation can do to business.

"As the current recession deepens the Government needs to be aware that the burden of red tape currently shouldered by our industry risks doing far more harm than any good. We are now entering a dangerous new phase of this downturn, as even the most innovative and successful operators' efforts to attract new custom risk being stifled due to the excessive regulation that they have to deal with on a day-to-day basis. Every penny spent on increased compliance costs is money which is not re-invested; that re-investment is vital to help safeguard jobs at a time when businesses are at their most vulnerable."

<<END>>

### Notes for 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.
- A full transcript of John Grogan's comments can be found online at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090119/debtext/90119-0010.htm>

For more information, please contact:

Nick Bish, Chief Executive, *ALMR*, 07831 778 993

Kate Nicholls, Head of Communications, *ALMR*, 07958 796 238

Katie Fuller, Quintus Public Affairs, 0791 202 4372