

01 April 2009



**THE ASSOCIATION OF MULTIPLE LICENSED RETAILERS**  
*Championing small business interests in the pub and bar industry*

**FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**

## **Community Pubs Report Backs ALMR Calls for Reform**

The Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (ALMR) – the only national trade body representing small business interests in the pub and bar industry – has welcomed a new report from influential think tank, the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR).

With pub closures currently at a rate of 39 per week the report states that urgent action is needed to prevent community pubs from disappearing, recognising the important role they play in society.

This will require a radical change in Government policy as well changes to way the pub trade operates, says the IPPR.

The report backs calls from the ALMR for a reduction in business taxes paid by pubs, an end to the alcohol duty escalator announced at last year's Budget and recognises the harmful impact that cheap alcohol sold in supermarkets is having on the pub and bar trade.

ALMR Chief Executive Nick Bish said that:

“As the report recognises, pubs and bars play an important part in community life and are a part of the British social fabric providing a well regulated, safe environment to drink in.

“These small businesses are facing an unprecedented crisis. Government imposed red tape, commercial pressures and the economic effect of pubco lease agreements have combined to create a lethal cocktail which has seen 39 pubs a week close in the past year alone.

“Publicans do not want a government hand-out, but equally they cannot cope with increasing compliance costs and regulatory burdens. They also do not want to be handicapped by the structure of the market.

The government needs to step up to the plate and take action to help the industry before it is too late.”

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## Note to editors

Further information on *Pubs and Places: The social value of community pubs* by Rick Muir, IPPR can be found [here](#).

The Institute for Public Policy Research is the UK's leading progressive think tank, producing cutting edge research and innovative policy ideas for a just, democratic and sustainable world.

The Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers is the national trade body solely dedicated to representing the interests of pub and bar operators, in particularly SMEs within the pub industry. Membership is derived from small, independent companies – the majority with an estate of fewer than fifty pubs. Between them they operate over 15,000 pubs or a quarter of the UK estate; these are predominantly community pubs operating in suburban or rural locations with an average turnover of just 5,000 per week.

In particular the ALMR is calling on government to provide the following solutions:

- An end to the alcohol duty escalator and a commitment from producers, landlords and suppliers to pass on any duty cut to publicans
- A ban on below cost selling by supermarkets
- Postponement of the planned reintroduction of the 17.5% VAT rate and a realignment of VAT and duty at that time
- Impose a moratorium on new business taxes or compliance costs eg increase in NMW and NIC rate and a postponement of business rate increases
- Abandonment of the proposed code of practice on alcohol retailing – which we estimate will cost all pubs £900 in the first year alone
- Support for measures to improve liquidity for pubs, including a pub specific loan guarantee scheme to assist lessees wanting to buy their pub from their landlord

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ENDS