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House of Commons  
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*Iain Wright*

### The Pubs Code Adjudicator

I am very grateful for your letter to me of 21 July.

Over many years your Committee has highlighted the difficult issues faced by tied tenants. We have a shared objective to make sure that tied tenants can operate in an environment that is fair and allows them to thrive, and I am delighted that the Government put in place the Pubs Code and Adjudicator to achieve this. I would like to add my personal thanks to you and other Committee members for your contribution so far, and for your continuing support in this important area.

I disagree with the Committee's view that the appointment process for the Pubs Code Adjudicator should be reopened. The appointment process was run in accordance with the Code of Practice for Ministerial appointments to public bodies. As part of the appointment process, the panel considered whether Paul Newby has conflicts of interest which might call into question his ability to do the job and concluded he did not. The Commissioner for Public Appointments, Peter Riddell, has considered the matter and said that he is satisfied that the panel were entitled to conclude that that Mr Newby has no such conflicts of interest.

The appointment brief set as desirable criteria an understanding of the pub and brewery industry and of property valuation, specifically valuation of pubs. It would not have been appropriate to rule out candidates who had directly relevant experience and expertise from prior work in the sector.

I recognise the particular sensitivity of both the appointment of a Pubs Code Adjudicator and of the Pubs Code itself. The Department will continue to work with you to ensure that there is fair dealing between pub-owning businesses and their tied tenants.

I am copying this letter to members of your Committee.

*with best wishes*

**THE RT HON GREG CLARK MP**

Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy