



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Paul Scully MP
Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Our Ref: LE15780

22 February 2022

Dear Paul

Re: CAMRA's Long Live the Local Campaign

Thank you for your sustained support for the hospitality and leisure sector throughout the pandemic, a vital lifeline for many, including businesses and constituents in Bosworth.

I have continued to receive a large amount of correspondence from constituents raising CAMRA's 'Long Live the Local' Campaign, highlighting concerns for local pubs and hospitality as we progress out of the pandemic. I continue to highlight to my constituents the unprecedented amount of Government support provided for the hardest hit industries, including the hospitality sector and I am mindful of the fiscal challenges the UK continues to face.

To inform my work in Westminster and in Bosworth as well as respond to constituents, I would welcome your comments on the following which I can share with my constituents:

- An update on progress made with the Hospitality Strategy that was launched last year.
- An update of the work of the Hospitality Sector Council to oversee the delivery of the strategy, including working with the sector to address labour and skills shortages.
- I note there is growing concern that consumer confidence in venturing into the public has decreased from the pandemic, with people choosing to go to the supermarkets instead of their local pub. Does this stand up to scrutiny in a national picture? I would be grateful for your thoughts about current consumer trends and the extent of public confidence to return to visiting hospitality venues such as pubs and restaurants.
- Reflections on whether the extension of the lower rate of VAT for food and beverages sold in pubs is being considered.

Thank you again, I look forward to hearing from you with any comments that I can pass on.

Yours sincerely

Dr Luke Evans
Member of Parliament for Bosworth