

"I thank all Mike Wood, all MPs and the witnesses for their time on Thursday.

I was overwhelmed with the sentiment that Cask Beer is uniquely British and should be venerated.

At Black Sheep fully agree that the category should be reinvigorated but would highlight that at Black Sheep we pay nearly 60% of our turnover in UK taxes – 2/3 of which is beer duty alone. There is simply not the free cash to be able to make this much needed investment.

To put things into perspective, if we were Black Sheep Cider Company not Black Sheep Brewery we would pay c£3.5m per annum LESS in alcohol duty that we presently do . That is c15% of our annual turnover.

For context. Our recently installed packaging plant was a £2.2m investment and will help create and save much needed jobs in rural Yorkshire.

After the most challenging year in our history, we passionately support any cut in beer duty to allow investment to be made in British breweries and the 100,000 jobs they supports in communities across the land. I would urge the enquiry to look at all ways to cut our tax burden, maybe starting with the recent letter sent by 80 MPs calling for lower duty on draught beer.

Regards

Andy Slee
Chairman
Black Sheep Brewery