

The BII (British Institute of Innkeeping) is the leading independent membership body for individuals working in the licensed trade. We have 9,000 individual members running premises across the UK - predominantly tenanted, leased, managed and freehold pubs. The organisation provides expert helplines, online business support, and guidance on key industry issues, face-to-face networking opportunities and exclusive products & services from a range of Trusted Partners. It is the leading organisation of its kind, representing the individuals working at the front line of licensed retail today, and in 2021 will have been doing so for 40 years.

The BII is passionate about independently operated pubs who provide a unique hospitality experience. Our members fully recognise the significance of cask ales as a critical part of a distinctive pub offer. As part of our submission, we have arranged for one of our long-standing members, Trustee and current licensee, Kelly McCarthy, to be giving evidence directly to the All-Party Parliamentary Beer Group's Inquiry into the Future of Cask Beer.

We have also recently surveyed our membership with over 300 responses, the headline results are:

- **76% of BII members see cask ale as an extremely or very important offering on the bar**
- **61% have more 3 or more cask ale pumps**
- **43% stated that they would stock fewer cask ales via fewer pumps as they reopen**

Our members have stated several reasons behind the changes: uncertainty of trading, high level of lost stock through previous restrictions and cash constraints on offering a full range.

We would call on Government to rapidly provide critical support to pubs and local breweries through:

- Deliver a long-term extension of VAT at 5% for food and beverage
- Implement an immediate beer duty reduction for draught products served in the on-trade to support our pubs recovery
- Full reform of the current beer duty system to reduce this significant tax burden

This support would critically help pubs, particularly those that are drinks-led, to support profitable early trading through consumer demand. This in turn would ensure that they are able to support local breweries and maintain cask ales as a distinctive part of what makes our pubs so special.

Steve Alton  
CEO  
British Institute of Innkeeping