

# Support the Tied Pubs (Scotland) Bill



All Members of the Scottish Parliament  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

23 March 2021

Dear MSPs,

## Support the Tied Pubs Bill

Today the Scottish Parliament has the opportunity to help Scotland's pubs rebuild from the Covid crisis and support hundreds of local publicans and brewers. By voting for the Tied Pubs Bill, you can bring fairness and choice to the tied pub sector.

We are writing to you as organisations *who actually represent Scottish pub tenants, pubs and customers*, as opposed to the property companies and global brewers who own pubs and subject them to hugely inflated beer prices through the tied model.

For too long, large pub-owning companies have taken more than their fair share from publicans. Too often they have held their tied tenants back, restricted consumer choice and failed to properly regulate themselves and keep their house in order. They have put their own profits before the sustainability of local pubs and fairness for tied pub tenants. It cannot go on.

A new survey released this month found that almost 60% of tenants in tied agreements earn less than the minimum wage when taking into account the hours they work. 50% earn less than £20,000 despite the enormous commitment they make to their business.

The Tied Pubs Bill delivers a fairer deal for tied publicans, with a new statutory Pubs Code. It would rebalance tied agreements, shifting power from the large pubcos to the local pubs who desperately need your help. It allows tenants to opt-out of tied deals that aren't working. It will give publicans more choice over the drinks they stock to help meet consumer demand, promote Scottish products and sustain their business. The Tied Pubs Bill will also be very positive for Scotland's small brewers, who at the moment are restricted from access to pubs owned by the big brewers and pubcos operating the tie.

The fact that global brewers and pubcos are so desperate to stop this Bill exposes the fact that they take too much from pub profits. The reality is that the Market Rent Only option is just that, an option and if they want to keep publicans tied, they need to offer much better deals, lower prices and lower rents. That's all the Bill calls for – fairness and a fair split of pub profits, which all MSPs must surely agree with. In England, pubcos have continued to invest in pubs, despite the Pubs Code and if they want to continue to own and operate pubs, they will do the same in Scotland.

We are therefore calling on all Members of the Scottish Parliament to back the Tied Pubs Bill and act now to help Scotland's pub tenants and give a fairer future for these pubs.

Yours sincerely,



scottish  
co-operative  
party