



29 January 2009



Dear Paul,

EX 46 Returns

We have received a number of complaints from our respective members concerning the withdrawal of the facility to make beer duty returns by e-mail as from 15th January 2009. This is an inconvenience to many companies that had only recently moved over from making postal returns. For those who did not change to electronic submissions, there is the irritation that postage-paid envelopes are no longer supplied. We have also been advised that companies are being pressed to pay by Direct Debit. Whilst we appreciate that legally HMRC can oblige companies to do this, DD has not generally been enforced up to now. We wonder why HMRC should have changed its stance on this. We are concerned that these changes have not been discussed with the trade bodies prior to implementation.

Our members would favour the re-establishment of the option to submit electronic returns once the security issues have been addressed. We would be keen to work with HMRC to find a satisfactory solution.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Long".

Dr D E Long
Director, Brewing
British Beer and Pub Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Bott".

Keith Bott
President
SIBA

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