

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

Rt Hon Jane Kennedy MP
Financial Secretary to the Treasury
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
LONDON SW1A 2HQ

July 16th 2007

Dear Jane,

I fully support the government's current practice of allowing small-scale producers of cider and perry to register for duty exemption if they produce less than 70 hectolitres per annum. A number of producers in my South East of England euro-constituency have benefited from this arrangement, allowing local and sustainable cider making to flourish.

The European Commission is, at present, in the process of reviewing the special excise duty conditions relating to small-scale industries and I am concerned that this may bring about a change to the existing UK system. As a Green Party MEP, I shall, of course, be doing my utmost to represent the needs of small scale producers at EU level. I trust that the UK will also be working hard to defend the duty exemption for cider and perry producers, particularly as I understand that the more commercial producers are lobbying hard, through the National Association of Cider Makers, to end the duty free concession.

I look forward to learning what approach the Treasury is adopting on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.