

Des O'Flanagan, PubAid co-founder, said: "We were pleased to see the hospitality sector broadly singled out for favourable treatment in the Chancellor's statement. Both the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme and the reduction in VAT should help to attract customers over the summer and rebuild our wonderful industry.

"While pubs hopefully start to get busy again, it's worth remembering the hundreds of charities who have been a casualty of lockdown, missing out on an estimated £45 million which would normally have been raised in pubs over the four months. We think there is an opportunity now for pub customers to be generous and donate some of the VAT they'll be saving on their food and drink to charity.

"Pubs across the country came to the rescue of their communities during the pandemic, and now they're open again, we know that many of them, and their customers, will be looking for ways to renew their support for charities."