

# PUNCH TAVERNS PLC ("Punch" or "the Group")

Re: Directorate

Punch Taverns Plc announces that Deborah Kemp, the Managing Director of Punch Leased, has decided to leave the business and will step down from the Board with immediate effect. Deborah will, however, remain with Punch until December 2008 to effect a handover with her successor and continue to provide support to Punch. The Board would like to express its gratitude to Deborah for her exceptional service to Punch during her 25 year tenure with the Group and wishes her every success in her future career.

Deborah will be replaced by Roger Whiteside, aged 50. Roger has approaching 30 years experience in Retail, notably with Marks & Spencer plc (1979 to 2000), Ocado and Thresher. Roger has considerable experience in leadership roles having sat on the Marks & Spencer UK Operating Board as Head of Food and he was Joint Managing Director at Ocado from 2000 to 2003. Most recently, Roger joined the Thresher Group where he was CEO from 2004 until 2007 during which time he led the strategic review that culminated in the restructuring and subsequent successful sale of Thresher. In addition, Roger is a Non Executive Director of Greggs Plc.

We believe Roger's skills are well placed to continue to drive the future growth of the Leased Business. Roger joins the Group on 3 November 2008 when he will be appointed to the Board upon joining.

No additional information is required to be disclosed in respect of Roger Whiteside pursuant to Listing Rule 9.6.13R (1) to (6).

**Giles Thorley,  
Chief Executive of Punch Taverns commented:**

*"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Deborah both personally and on behalf of the Board for her commitment to Punch in leading the Leased business through a significant period of transition over the last couple of years. To her credit, Deborah will be leaving the Leased business a significantly more customer-focused and streamlined operation which will stand the business in excellent stead as we continue to build the UK's premier pub company.*

*"I would also like to welcome Roger to the Group. Roger has a long and diverse career in the Retail sector and brings with him exceptional experience which will be invaluable to the Group in taking our Leased business to the next stage of its development."*

21 October 2008

**Enquiries:**

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