



**Pubs Code
Adjudicator**

What Tied Pub Tenants Need To Know

Significant Increase in Price

Giving you the right to request the Market Rent Only Option and/or a Rent Assessment



How to use this fact sheet:

This factsheet is for tied pub tenants who want to know more about the **Significant Increase in Price** and related rights under the Pubs Code.

It provides information to support tenant understanding. It is not a substitute for the Pubs Code legal framework.

Our website also contains other useful information about accessing your Pubs Code rights, including the PCA's published advice on Code matters:
www.pubscodeadjudicator.org.uk

At a glance... Significant increase in price

If you have received an invoice showing an increase in the unit price of a tied product or service from the last time it was invoiced, it may be a **significant increase in price** under the Pubs Code.

A significant increase in price under the Pubs Code gives you the right to ask your pub company for:

- a rent assessment - which begins with a Rent Assessment Proposal for a new tied rent; and/or
- a Market Rent Only option - to rent your pub on a free-of-tie basis.

This factsheet explains how to determine whether an increase in the unit price of a tied product or service is a significant increase in price, and what rights you have where there is a significant increase in price.



Terms and abbreviations

Term/abbreviation	What it means
PCA	Pubs Code Adjudicator
Code	Pubs Code
POB	Pub-owning business (often referred to as pub
TPT	Tied Pub Tenant (this includes a tied pub licensee and lessee)
MRO	Market Rent Only
MRO Option	The option for you to occupy the tied pub under a MRO-compliant tenancy and to pay a rent you have agreed with the POB in line with the MRO procedure or, failing such agreement, the market rent.
Rent Assessment	An assessment of the rent you must pay in relation to an existing tenancy
RAP	Rent Assessment Proposal
Relevant Invoice	Invoice showing the price increase in the tied product or service (this invoice may also include other products or services)
Current Period	The 4-week period before the relevant invoice was issued (ending with the day on which the relevant invoice was issued)
Comparison Period	The 4-week period last year, which starts with the day 12 months before the day the relevant invoice was issued
Relevant Product or Service	The tied product or service supplied to the tied pub tenant for which there is a significant increase in price



When might there be a significant increase in price?

See Part 1 of the Pubs Code (Regulations 3 to 6)

If you have received an invoice showing an increase in the unit price of a tied product or service from the last time it was invoiced, it may be a **significant increase in price** under the Pubs Code.

A significant increase in price occurs at the point when the tied pub tenant receives notification of the increase in price for the relevant product or service. In other words, the key moment is when the tenant receives the invoice, not when the service is provided, not when the work is carried out, and not when payment is made.

When comparing unit prices, you must exclude VAT (Value Added Tax) and excise duty and disregard the effect of any discounts which the POB was not contractually required to give you.

The Pubs Code sets out the calculation to work out if the price increase is of the required level to be considered significant.

What does a significant increase in price allow me to do?

A significant increase in price under the Pubs Code gives you the right to ask your pub company for **either or both** of the following:

- a rent assessment - which begins with a Rent Assessment Proposal (RAP) for a new tied rent
- a Market Rent Only (MRO) option - to rent your pub on a free-of-tie basis

A significant increase in price is one of four gateways to request a MRO option - called 'MRO events'. Note: it is not a MRO event if the price increase was reasonably foreseeable when the tenancy or licence was granted or when any last rent assessment was concluded.

There are strict time limits for sending a MRO notice or requesting a rent assessment.

The pub company must receive:

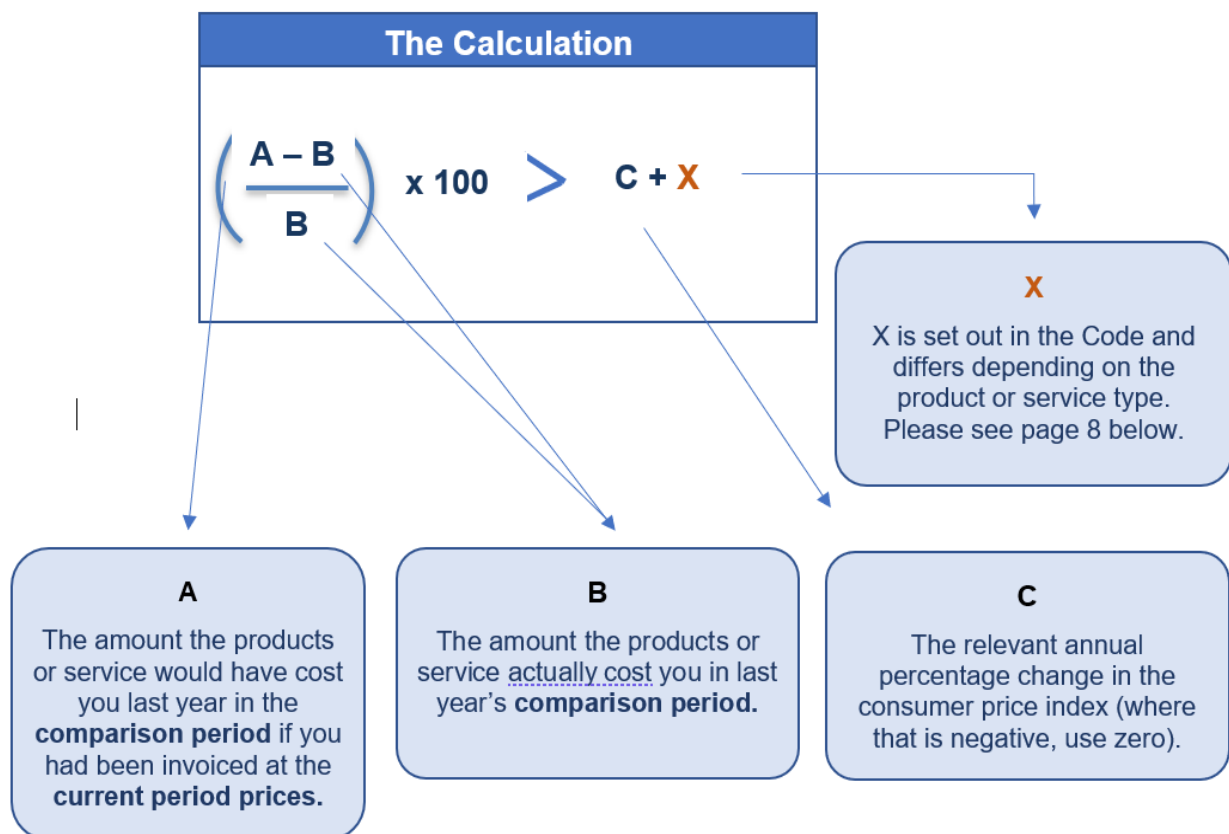
- your request for a rent assessment within **14 days**, starting the day you receive the invoice
- your MRO notice within **21 days**, starting the day after you receive the invoice



- Rent Assessments, see factsheet [What Tied Pub Tenants need to know about rent assessments and rent assessment proposals](#)
- The Market Rent Only Option, see factsheet [What Tied Pub Tenants need to know about Market Rent Only \(MRO\) rights](#)

How do I calculate if there has been a significant increase in price?

The Pubs Code sets out how to calculate whether a price increase in a tied product or service is a **significant increase in price**.



Step by Step Guide to calculating if there has been a Significant Increase in Price

Step 1: Work out the 'current period' (this year)

Look at the invoice showing the price increase in the tied product or service. Work out the period four weeks before that invoice (ending with the day it was issued).



This four-week period is called the **current period**.

Step 2: Work out the 'comparison period' (last year)

Work out the four-week period last year, which **starts** with the day 12 months before the day the relevant invoice was issued.



This four-week period is called the **comparison period**.



There can only be a significant increase in price under the Pubs Code if you were invoiced for the same product or service in both the comparison period and the current period.

Step 3: Identify the product or service category

Identify which category the relevant tied product or service belongs to:



- **Beer**
- **Alcoholic drink other than beer**
- **Products other than alcoholic drink**
- **Services**

If the tied item falls under **services**, examples of services that a pub company may provide include (but are not limited to):

- **Package deals for maintenance and compliance**, such as:
 - servicing and compliance testing of equipment (e.g., boilers, cellar cooling)
 - gas and electrical safety inspections
 - assistance in meeting legal requirements (for example under health and safety or licensing legislation).
 - training services

Marketing support, where the POB provides promotional materials or marketing activity on behalf of the tenant.



Insurance, such as:

- buildings or contents insurance arranged by the POB and recharged to the tenant.

A “service tie” refers to any contractual obligation under which a tied tenant must obtain a service provided by the landlord or the landlord’s nominated supplier, where the tenant is required to pay a fee for that service.

Step 4: Work out A and B in the calculation

List all the tied products or services within the same category identified at Step 3 that were invoiced in the **comparison period**. Then also note the **quantities** invoiced.

- **Only include** the product or service if it’s supplied under a tie. For example, beer supplied under the tie and not all beer.
- **Consider products or services separately** from each other within the same category where invoiced under different names or in different units (such as size or capacity) and/or in different packaging (such as bottles and cans).
- **Exclude** from your list any product or service not invoiced in the **current period** under the same name and unit. For example, if a product has the same name but was invoiced in the current period in a different unit, you must exclude it.

Calculate A	Calculate B
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Find the current period price for each item in the list by looking at the last time that product or service was invoiced during the current period.➤ Note the price excluding VAT and excise duty and disregard the effect of any discounts which the POB was not contractually required to give you.➤ Work out the amount that the relevant product or service would have cost you over the comparison period if invoiced at the current period price.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Add up what the relevant product or service actually cost you over the comparison period.➤ When noting the prices, as with the current period price, you must exclude VAT and excise duty, and disregard the effect of any discounts which the POB was not contractually required to give you.



Example:

Tied Beer Category	Current Period 4 weeks			Comparison Period 4 weeks		
	Quantity	Current Period Price	Cost	Quantity	Comparison Period Price	Cost
Beer A	5	102	510	5	100	500
Beer B	10	61.5	615	10	60	600
Beer C	15	41	615	15	40	600
Total	30		1740	30		1700

A
B

Step 5: Work out the % increase between A and B

Work out the percentage price increase between A and B (calculate A minus B, divide the answer by B, then multiply the answer by 100).



Example:

$$1740 (A) - 1700 (B) = 40$$

$$40 \div 1700 (B) = 0.0235\dots$$

$$0.0235 \times 100 = 2.35\%$$

Step 6: Check the Consumer Price Index to find C in the calculation

Find out the annual percentage change in the consumer price index. This is published by the Office for National Statistics.



Take the change most recently published before the day the relevant invoice was issued. This % change is **C** in the calculation.



Step 7: Add C to X in the calculation

Add the % from Step 6 (C in the calculation) to the following % (X in the calculation) according to the product or service:

Tied Product/Service	X =
Beer	3%
Other Alcoholic Drinks	8%
Non-alcoholic products or services	20%

Example:

If the % change in the consumer price index is 5% and the tied product is beer:

$$5\% (C) + 3\% (X) = 8\%$$

Step 8: Check whether the % price increase reaches the required level

For a significant increase in price, the % price increase calculated at Step 5 needs **to exceed** the increase calculated at Step 7.



Example:

Step 5 = 2.35%

Step 7 = 8%

As 2.35% does not exceed 8%, in this example there is **not** a significant increase in price.



Questions about this factsheet

For **general queries** about the information in this factsheet, you may contact our enquiry service.

Please note, we can provide information about your rights, the Code and our processes. We cannot advise you about your case.



Complete our [online enquiry form](#)



Email: office@pubscodeadjudicator.gov.uk



Call 0800 528 8080 to request a call back

This factsheet provides information to support tenant understanding. It is not a substitute for the Pubs Code framework.

You may find it helpful to take independent professional advice before making any decisions that may affect you and your business.

Find out more

Follow the PCA on social media [@pubscodepca](#)



[Access all PCA factsheets here](#)

Last updated: March 2025

