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## Pub closures on the rise despite Christmas trading boost, latest figures show

- Latest figures from CAMRA show pub closures went up 7% in 2017
- Continues year-on-year trend of increasing closures since 2015
- Steve O'Connell AM calls on Mayor and Night Czar to do more

The number of pubs closing in London rose seven per cent this year, continuing an increasing trend of closures year-on-year, latest figures show.

Statistics provided by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) showed 139 pubs closed across the capital in 2017 compared with 130 in 2016.

The number is up 11 per cent on 2015, when 125 pubs closed. The news comes at a time when pubs are often at their busiest over the Christmas period.

London Assembly member and CAMRA supporter Steve O'Connell believes the Mayor of London and the Night Czar should be doing more to protect London's pubs.

**He said:** "London's pubs are a vital part of the city's vibrancy and world-renowned night life, as well as being important community assets.

"These latest statistics paint a worrying picture for the future of the capital's much-loved boozers and urgent action is needed.

"Many successful and popular establishments are forced to close because of unfair increases in overheads, not because they aren't trading well. Despite a year in the job, the Night Czar has failed to stem this downwards trend.

"The Mayor and Amy Lane must now work together to support an important part of our economy and society before even more pubs are forced out of business."

ENDS.

### Notes

- Steve O'Connell has previously written a report, Keeping Local, on how to save pubs as community assets: <http://glaconservatives.co.uk/keeping-local/>

- The report calls on boroughs to adopt stringent criteria when considering the demolition of a pub. The Mayor and Night Czar should be pushing for boroughs to adopt this approach.
- The full data provided by CAMRA is attached.

**For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact the press office below.**

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