

# North Devon Conservatives

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## EU ministers agree plans to cut VAT on the High Street

A LOCAL RESTAURANTER has spoken of his support of the EU's final adoption of proposals that would allow governments to drop VAT to five percent on certain service industries on the high street.

Philip J Milton, owner of Trimstone Manor Country House Hotel & Restaurant near Woolacombe, who is also the Conservative Prospective MP for North Devon said:

“I understand the pressures on the hospitality trade particularly. This proposal, if implemented, could potentially help those businesses suffering in the current economic climate, including hairdressers, builders and of course, struggling cafes, pubs and restaurants! The cut in VAT to 15% last December was a complete failure. However, more meaningful cuts to certain services could have a bigger impact and help the struggling smaller businesses in North Devon.”

The plans, which have been agreed by the EU Finance Ministers would grant national governments greater freedom to reduce VAT to no less than five percent on services that can only be provided locally.

Philip added:

“I urge Mr Darling to seriously consider this proposal as I am convinced it will be a step in the right direction to helping small struggling businesses nationally and here in North Devon, particularly as we want to do all we can this year to welcome as many guests to North Devon as we can, for everyone's economic benefit .”

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