

Date: 12 December 2002
Time: 9:00 –12:30
Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay
Title: WALES TOURIST BOARD PROPOSALS FOR STATUTORY REGISTRATION OF TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

Purpose and Action

1. To inform the Committee of the Wales Tourist Board's (WTB) proposals for a Scheme of Statutory Registration of tourist accommodation:
2. **The Committee is invited to note and comment on [the WTB's report on Statutory Registration of tourist accommodation](#) (Annex A)**
3. The WTB's Chief Executive, Jonathan Jones and Director of Strategy, Steve Webb, will be attending the meeting to field any questions.

Background

4. The WTB is keen to see a Statutory Registration Scheme introduced. They feel it is the only way to bring about much-needed improvements in the quality of accommodation in Wales. Currently, only half of all known accommodation providers are members of the WTB's own voluntary star grading scheme.
5. The WTB's annual Remit Letter for 2001-02 charged the WTB to consult with the tourism industry and produce a report on the introduction of such a scheme (the EDC supported this action). The WTB submitted its report to the Welsh Assembly Government in August this year.
6. The report supports the implementation of a statutory system of tourist accommodation registration and inspection, and that this should be compulsory for all tourist accommodation (with some exceptions).
7. I am currently considering the proposals and officials from Economic Policy Division and the WTB have established a joint working group to examine the proposals in detail. I would welcome the Committee's input at this stage

Compliance

8. There are provisions under s.17 of the Development of Tourism Act 1969 for a statutory

registration scheme to be set up by an Order in Council. However, at present, the Assembly does not have powers to set up a Wales-only scheme under this provision and it is likely that primary legislation will be required. This is something that the working group will consider.

Financial Implications

9. If a statutory registration scheme is implemented for Wales there will be additional financial implications for the businesses and the implementing authorities. I have asked the WTB to work up these costs in more detail.