

Cross-Party Group Minutes

Meeting Minutes:

Cross Party Group Title:	Tourism
Date of Meeting:	Wednesday 19 th October
Location:	Zoom

In attendance:

Name:	Title:
Sam Rowlands (SR)	MS for North Wales
Tom Giffard (TG)	MS for South Wales West
Carolyn Thomas (CT)	MS for North Wales
Rhun ap Iorwerth (RI)	MS for Ynys Mon
Zak Weaver (ZW)	Support Staff to Sam Rowlands MS
Harry Saville (HS)	Support Staff to Sam Rowlands MS
Jena Quilter (JQ)	Support Staff to Welsh Conservative Group
Suzy Davies (SD)	Chairman of Wales Tourism Alliance
Adrian Greason-Walker (AGW)	Policy Advocate, Wales Tourism Alliance
David Greenhough (DG)	Head of Visitor Levy, Welsh Government
Anna Adams (AA)	Deputy Director, Tax Strategy and Intergovernmental Relations at Welsh Government
David Chapman (DC)	Executive Director for Wales, UK Hospitality
Alistair Handyside (AH)	Executive Chair, The Professional Association of Self-Caterers UK
Emma McQuillan (EM)	Head of Governance, Directorate, Caravan and Motorhome Club
Barbara Griffiths (BG)	North Wales Holiday Cottages
Chris Brannigan (CB)	Chief Executive Officer, British Holiday & Home Parks Association
Fiona Peel (FP)	Wales Official Tourist Guides Association

Katherine Haynes (KH)	Director of Policy and Communications, British Holiday & Home Parks Association
Joanna Richardson (JR)	Senior Public Affairs and Policy Executive, British Marine
Phil Godsal (PG)	Iscoyd Park

Apologies:

Name:	Title:
Delyth Jewell MS	MS for South Wales East
Heledd Fychan MS	MS for South Wales Central
Shoko Doherty	Chief Executive Officer, Celtic English Academy

Summary of Meeting:

Welcome and Introductions:

- SR welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the Senedd's vote on the Motion to annul The Non-Domestic Rating (Amendment of Definition of Domestic Property) (Wales) Order 2022, which was discussed at the last CPG meeting.
- SD welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of the WTA.

Consultation on proposals for a discretionary visitor levy for local authorities - <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/pdf-versions/2022/9/2/1663662013/visitor-levy.pdf>

- SR welcomed DG and AA from the Welsh Government who presented the Welsh Government's consultation on proposals for a discretionary visitor levy for local authorities.
- During this presentation, DG outlined that a visitor levy works well across many European countries, and that money raised from this would be used by local authorities to be spent on working towards sustainable tourism.
- DG explained that the visitor levy consultation came from the Welsh Government's Programme for Government following the 2021 Senedd Elections.
- DG stated that the consultation was launched on 20th September and will run until 13th December 2022. DG outlined that there had already been hundreds of responses.

- SR thanked DG and AA for their presentation and encouraged members of the Tourism Sector to respond to the visitor levy consultation.
- SD thanked DG and AA for their presentation and asked what the Welsh Government's approach will be if the consultation receives a different response to what they expect.
- DG and AA made it clear that any policy decisions will be made by the Welsh Government's elected politicians, and that civil servants couldn't comment on this.
- AH asked the Welsh Government about what exemptions could be granted to the visitor levy.
- DG outlined that exemptions were being looked into, which could include the disabled, the armed forces, different types of tourism etc.

Update and discussion on exemptions to the 182 Day Rule and 70 Day Rule

- Following the Motion to annul The Non-Domestic Rating (Amendment of Definition of Domestic Property) (Wales) Order 2022 not being supported by the Senedd, the CPG discussed exemptions to the 182 Day Rule and 70 Day Rule.
- AGW outlined that efforts now needed to be put into exploring exemptions, and that the Wales Tourism Alliance were having positive discussions with the Welsh Government's Finance and Local Government Minister regarding this.
- The CPG outlined that this was a moving situation, and SR encouraged the Tourism Sector to continue liaising with the Welsh Government regarding exemptions.

Further discussion and next steps for the Tourism Sector

- DC outlined that UK Hospitality Cymru would be happy to provide support and capacity to the CPG. SR thanked DC for this offer and expressed that this would be discussed and used going forward.
- SR stated that recent CPG meetings had heavily discussed the Welsh Government's proposed Tourism Tax and the 182 Day Rule, but also that future meetings could look into more positive attributes towards the Tourism Sector.
- SR also outlined how the CPG can intertwine hospitality more into the Tourism Sector's discussions.

Annual General Meeting

- RI and CT proposed and seconded SR to be elected as Chair of the CPG.

- It was also agreed that the Wales Tourism Alliance would be the CPG's secretariat.

Conclusion and Action Points:

- SR closed the meeting and thanked RI and CT for electing him as Chair of the CPG.
- SD thanked all those who attended and contributed.