

Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS

Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

10 September 2025

Dear Llywydd,

The Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my views on the proposed timetable for the Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill. I would like to reiterate my concerns regarding the length of the proposed Stage 1 for the Bill which I highlighted in my letter dated 23 July.

I believe the proposed timelines are too short to allow the quality of scrutiny I would expect to be provided by any Senedd Committee. High-quality scrutiny is a vital part of lawmaking and results in better legislation. Since there is insufficient time left in the Senedd calendar for the thorough Stage 1 process this Bill deserves prior to dissolution, I believe the Bill's introduction should be reconsidered. The incoming Government can then decide, after the election, whether to proceed with this Bill and if so, will be in a position to give our successor Committee adequate time to perform its vital scrutiny role.

Tourism is a cornerstone of the Welsh economy. According to [Welsh Government research](#), in 2022 visitor accommodation alone generated 1.2% of Welsh GVA, which is just under £1bn for our economy, and was responsible for around 2% of all jobs. Money spent by visitors staying in accommodation also supports other businesses in Wales. Around 12% of all Welsh jobs are part of the wider Visitor Economy. Substantial changes to visitor accommodation, such as those we anticipate to be included in this Bill, will have a big impact on Welsh jobs and our economy so therefore warrant serious consideration.



If the Committee is to meet the reporting deadline proposed in your letter for Stage 1, I estimate we will only be able to hold a three-week public consultation. A key part of the Committee's role in legislative scrutiny is to gather the views of interested parties and reflect these in the Stage 1 report. Three weeks will not provide stakeholders sufficient time to digest the Bill and submit a full, high-quality response, especially if they are a representative organisation and need to consult their members. Furthermore, many visitor accommodation businesses are very small and do not have the resources to closely monitor the Senedd's work. Such businesses may not have time to respond within three weeks, or worse, may not even be aware there has been a consultation until it has closed.

This licensing scheme is the result of a manifesto pledge and a commitment in the Programme for Government. It is not emergency legislation responding to a sudden incident or emerging risk. I remain disappointed that the Welsh Government did not plan its five-year legislative programme well enough to provide the Committee with adequate time to carry out our role and provide proper scrutiny of their proposed legislation.

I fully understand that the Business Committee is a political body and, as such, I expect politics will prevail over the need to make good legislation. So, I anticipate we will need to work with the timing set out in the draft timetable. If this is the case, I would like to reiterate my requests for mitigations from the Welsh Government. These are that:

- The Welsh Government stands by its commitment to publish the Bill when it is sent to the Llywydd for pre-introduction and should go further than this by publishing the draft Bill as soon as is practically possible if that is before it is sent for pre-introduction. If this is not possible, I would request that an early private draft Bill is shared with the Committee, with the understanding that we could then share this draft with key stakeholders. This would ensure those organisations have as much time as possible to contribute to the Committee's work.
- The Welsh Government stands by its commitment to make officials available to give a private technical briefing prior to the Bill's introduction. I believe it is necessary given the limited time Members will have to digest the Bill.

To reiterate, I am deeply concerned by the proposed timetable. If this is the timetable we must work to, the Committee will need to 'cut its cloth' accordingly and carry out the best scrutiny we can given the time allowed. However, this will not be of the quality I would normally expect and the Committee may not be able to afford the same level of detailed and appropriate consideration to all elements of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew RT Davies

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Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

