

Mark Drakeford MS
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language

12 November 2025

Dear Mark,

Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill

Thank you for appearing before Committee on 10 November 2025 to discuss the Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill ("the Bill").

During the session you agreed to respond to some questions that we asked during the session in writing. We would also be grateful if you could respond to some additional questions to support our scrutiny of the Bill. These questions are set out at annex A.

Please could you respond no later than 21 November?

I have copied this letter to the Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Hedges
Chair



Annex A: Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language re. the Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill

Legislative consent

1. Does the Government consider that any of the provisions of the Bill require the consent of HM The King or the Prince of Wales? If so, when do you anticipate that any required consents will be received?

Development of the Bill

2. The Explanatory Memorandum refers to a “paucity of reliable data currently available” regarding the number of self-catering lets available in Wales and “no data available on the characteristics of premises or levels of compliance with the existing statutory obligations”. Why did you conclude that the Bill is needed?

3. You stated in Committee that:

“The Bill has been consulted upon in one way or another in every single year of this Senedd term. There have been a long series of opportunities particularly with the industry itself to make sure that the Welsh Government was made aware of people’s views and to adapt the proposals to take account of that.”

What opportunity, if any, have stakeholders been given to comment on specific proposals as they appear in the Bill?

4. Did you consider delaying bringing forward the Bill until after the implementation of the registration regime established by Visitor Accommodation (Register and Levy) Etc. (Wales) Act 2025?
5. In Committee, you stated that “the vast bulk of licenses will be issued through as automatic a process as possible by the Welsh Revenue Authority”, but that, “In the minority of cases where a more direct form of inspection or intervention is needed”, the Bill leaves it open for the Welsh Government to work with local authorities or with Visit Wales to physically inspect premises. Why hasn’t this been clarified in advance of the Bill being introduced, and why has this not been included in more detail on the face of the Bill?

Delegated powers

6. During our meeting on 10 November, in response to a question about whether the Bill strikes the right balance between what is on the face of the Bill and what is provided for in terms of delegated powers, you stated that:

"Sometimes there are things where you might put something on the face of the Bill that actually create a straitjacket for the industry, and where regulations allow a different level of engagement with the industry. Most of the regulations we are talking about will be subject to consultation further to Senedd affirmation, and where the flexibility the regulations allow means that the Bill and its requirements will work better for the industry itself. Sometimes there've been choices between the two aspects you've suggested where my view was I'd resolve them in favour of what I think works for the industry, rather than the clarity that I know the Senedd would sometimes like to see..."

Please can you provide us with any examples of specific provisions in the Bill that either reflect requests from the tourism industry to defer detail to regulations rather than placing it on the face of the Bill, or that support your belief that this would be their preferred approach?

7. Please could you explain the Government's justification for taking the Henry VIII powers in the following sections:
- a. Section 6(2)
 - b. Section 17(1)
 - c. Section 19(3)
 - d. Section 25(2)
 - e. Section 49
 - f. Section 56(1)

Clarity and effect of proposals

8. The Bill states that it will form part of a code of Welsh law relating to tourism. We note your comments and the comments of your official made on 10 November. In relation to the proposed code you stated that the code will make relevant law relating to tourism "available in one place", and your official later stated that "everything is published together in one place, and described as a code". From a practical point of view:

- a. Where can a user find a standard definition of what the Welsh Government means by a code?
 - b. What changes, if any, will legislation.gov.uk make to their website so that a user knows that a tourism code exists, whether legislation is part of that code, and how to find other legislation that is part of the same code?
- 9. Section 39(4) of the Bill provides that disclosure of information between the Welsh Ministers and the list of bodies in subsection (3) does not breach obligations of confidence or “any other restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed)”. What types of restriction would this provision override and why is it necessary?
- 10. Section 46 prohibits advertising or marketing visitor accommodation at premises without including certain information in a manner and form specified by the Welsh Ministers. How will those requirements be specified in practice and why did you decide not to specify requirements in regulations?
- 11. Section 47 creates an offence for failing to comply with the requirements for advertising visitor accommodation in section 46. Could a letting agent or online booking platform be criminalised for non-compliance with section 46? Or just a visitor accommodation provider?

Other questions

- 12. Why has the Cabinet Secretary chosen not to include a provision on the face of the Bill that requires the Welsh Ministers to undertake a post-implementation review?
- 13. Are you expecting to bring any particular amendments to the Bill forward at Stage 2?
- 14. Should the Bill be passed and enacted, when do you envisage the licensing scheme being implemented?