



SCOTTISH
TOURISM
ALLIANCE

Your voice in tourism matters

Clerk to Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

Re: Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill – Call for Written Evidence deadline extension request

Wednesday 28th June 2023

Email sent: localgov.committee@parliament.scot; Euan.donald@scottish.parliament.uk; Alan.Hunter@parliament.scot (cc Ariane.Burgess.msp@parliament.scot; Willie.Coffey.msp@parliament.scot; Ivan.McKee.msp@parliament.scot; Annie.Wells.msp@parliament.scot; Marie.McNair.msp@parliament.scot; Mark.Griffin.msp@parliament.scot; Miles.Briggs.msp@parliament.scot; Murdo.Fraser.msp@parliament.scot; Alex.Rowley.msp@parliament.scot; Ruth.Maguire.msp@parliament.scot)

Dear Committee Clerk,

As the overarching trade body for the tourism and hospitality industry in Scotland, The Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA) is writing to you on behalf of the sector to **formally request a deadline extension to the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee's Call for Evidence on the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill.**

We request that the deadline be **extended to 1st October** to ensure that the sector has adequate time to present its views on the Visitor Levy, enabling the Committee to effectively scrutinise the Bill and its potential implications.

This letter has been endorsed by STA's Council, which includes representation from across the country's major trade and membership bodies for the sector.

As set out in our recent letter to you and Committee members (dated 19th June), the tourism and hospitality sector has now entered the extremely busy summer visitor season and our members will need sufficient time to properly respond to the evidence call. For many businesses this is the critical time of their year, where they will be focused on generating enough income to last them during the off-peak winter season.

We welcome that the Call for Evidence includes the opportunity to submit brief and general comments, including uploading video and audio, as part of the evidence being gathered. However, many people in the industry are currently working seven days a week and very long hours, which will make it challenging for them to respond at all during this time. Raising awareness of the consultation will also prove difficult during this time.


[The STA's recent industry survey](#), undertaken in May and June ahead of the tourist season getting underway, found that nearly half of respondents (49%) said they do not support the introduction of a visitor levy. This is particularly relevant given that over three-quarters of

respondents (80%) said that they provide overnight accommodation. Over a quarter (26%) said they only supported a visitor levy if the net revenue raised is 'used solely for tourism investment and enhancement'.

As it will be tourism and hospitality businesses that will shoulder the burden of collecting the levy on behalf of local authorities, we strongly believe they should be prioritised in being given ample opportunity to present their views as part of the Committee's scrutiny of the Bill.

Thank you for considering our request and please get in contact if there's any further information we can provide that will support the Committee during its scrutiny of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,



Marc Crothall MBE
Chief Executive of the Scottish Tourism Alliance

Endorsed by STA's Council members:

1. Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA)
2. Association of Scotland's Self-Caterers (ASSC)
3. Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions (ASVA)
4. British Amusement Catering Trade Association (BACTA)
5. British Holiday & Home Parks Association (BH&HPA)
6. Camping & Caravanning Club
7. Caravan & Motorhome Club
8. Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT)
9. Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
10. Green Tourism
11. Hostelling Scotland
12. National Outdoor Events Association (NOEA)
13. Sail Scotland
14. Scottish Agritourism
15. Scottish Bed & Breakfast Association (SBBA)
16. Scottish Beer & Public Association (SBPA)
17. Scottish Country Sports Tourism Group (SCSTG)
18. Scottish Destination Management Association (SMDA)
19. Scottish Golf Tourism Development Group (SGTDG)
20. Scottish Incoming Golf Tour Operators Association (SIGTOA)
21. Scottish Independent Tour Operators Association (SITOA)
22. Scottish Licensed Trade Association (SLTA)
23. Scottish Tourist Guides Association (STGA)
24. Scottish Wedding Industry Alliance (SWIA)
25. UKHospitality Scotland
26. UKinbound
27. Wild Scotland