



Professional Association of Self-Caterers UK

COVID GUIDELINES NEWSLETTER

5 February 2021

Issue 44

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

The following guidelines need to apply as PASC UK has limited resources.

- Paid members will receive telephone support
- Paid members will receive priority email support
- Free Newsletter subscriptions will receive email support where possible, subjects that are commonly asked will be answered in the weekly newsletter
- Anyone passing on information taken from this newsletter must credit PASC UK with a link to the website www.pascuk.co.uk

Since Lockdown 1 came into effect we have dealt with over 72,000 emails, and thousands of calls during the crisis and we thank you all for your patience during these unprecedented times.

However, **it still remains the case that the vast majority of emails and calls relate to the information provided in the newsletters and the updates on Facebook, so please read the newsletter and follow on Facebook, and check the links out before calling and emailing. We are really stretched as this crisis continues. Thanks for your co-operation.**

PASC UK SOCIAL MEDIA

**Please follow PASC on Twitter @PascUK
Please on Facebook @pascukltd**

It is really important to follow PASC UK on Facebook and Twitter. This is not a vanity project, this is the quickest way to get news to you during the week, which is then consolidated in the newsletter that is written on Friday.

Even though we are into the eleventh month of this terrible crisis new developments are happening daily, and sometimes hourly.

It is also true to say that, the more of you that do follow us on Social Media, then the more effective we can be. Please it only takes a second, and if everyone who received this free newsletter did so, we would have thousands of followers and a much louder voice. Thanks.

COMMENTARY

First of all, a plea to all of you who receive this newsletter to take the time to support the work we do by taking part in the National Self-Catering survey below. This is critical in providing the data to create a National Report that will be both useful to you, and to us to Lobby Governments on your behalf. So far less than 10% of you have taken part ☹ Especially keen for more surveys to be completed by Welsh Businesses as it will also support work covered further down.

The news is full again of Road Maps, calls for Road Maps and news of vaccine rollouts. The general underlying trend is looking hopeful and barring any major setbacks, we can start to expect some answers of the 'unlocking' over the next few weeks.

We continue to lobby for more support at every opportunity and this week have presented by zoom to a group of 15 South West MP's about the need for further support for Tourism generally.

Key lobbying objectives are stated below.

We meet with DCMS by zoom (the Government Department where most of Tourism resides) every other week and have interim calls as necessary.

This week was also the Tourism Alliance main Board meeting by zoom of which I am a Board Member, and lobbying objectives were confirmed as aligned.

We also had the SW Meeting of UK Hospitality, again by Zoom and a meeting with Welsh Government officials yesterday, of which more below.

By aligning all the lobbying through all these channels, we are much more likely to get positive outcomes. Progress though can feel very slow, in England not really much commitment coming out of the Government, so that they can keep their powder dry for the much-vaunted February 22nd announcement, and the 3rd March Budget announcements. We will continue to push.

At PASC UK January and February have been madly busy, with more emails and calls than at any time previously. We have just about caught up with the emails and we will get back to you and catch up with those remaining just as soon as we can.

As always wishing each and every one of you all the best in these desperate times.

PASC UK SELF-CATERING WEBINARS

The Self-Catering Cancellation Policies that took place on Wednesday 3 February can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/zhtHyXDswI4>

Well over 400 businesses took part, we have received great feedback and as detailed below in the newsletter we have published a Cancellations Policies Newsletter.

The next Free Webinar will be on Chargebacks

Jointly Hosted by PASC UK and SuperControl

Will have a payments industry expert from **HolidayRentPayment** presenting and joining the panel for Q and A's.

Provisional date now: Wednesday 17 February 2021

Time: 1500 -1630

Registration link will be published shortly on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd> and in the next Newsletter.

Followed by a free webinar on "Changing Agents or Going Direct?"

We are still planning the Webinar on 'Changing Agents or Going Direct?' and are finalising an interesting panel of speakers and panellists for that. The webinar will cover pros and cons of both routes to market.

Provisional date now: Wednesday 24 February 2021

Time: 1100 -1230

Registration link will be published on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd> and in the next Newsletter

THE UK NATIONAL SELF-CATERING SURVEY



ASSC

Supporting self-catering in Scotland

Two weeks ago we launched the National Self-Catering Report 2021. We are working on this with the ASSC (Association of Scotland's Self-Caterers) and sponsored by SuperControl.

Thanks to those that have already filled in the survey and this is a follow up plea to those that have not so far.

The first stage in preparing the Report above is to gather data about the Self-Catering Businesses. To do that we need all of you to take part, to make the survey as meaningful as possible. Please can you set aside 15 minutes to give us this information so that we can support you better with the creation of the Report and support effective lobbying for our sector. It doesn't matter how big or small you are, all data is critical for the survey and subsequent report.

This is a Self-Catering only survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/pascasscoperators>

Thank you in advance for your participation.

FCA BUSINESS INTERRUPTION POLICY CHECKER AND FAQ

Following the Supreme Court test case on a range of business Interruption insurance policies, the FCA has produced a Policy Checker which takes businesses through a process whereby they can check to see whether their insurance policy covers business interruption losses due to coronavirus. It should be noted that each claim will still need to be individually considered to determine whether the policy provides cover for the effects of coronavirus.

Policyholders will need to check:

- the extent of their cover including how long it covers them for (length of their indemnity period)
- what losses are included - such as loss of profit, fixed costs or increased costs of working

<https://www.fca.org.uk/decision-tree/business-interruption-insurance-policy-checker>

In addition to the Policy Checker, the FCA have also developed a FAQs which gives business further information on:

- How to make a claim
- The disease clauses in policies
- What to do if they have already made a claim or complaint

- What they can claim for.

<https://www.fca.org.uk/firms/business-interruption-insurance-policy-checker/general-faqs-policyholders>

BUSINESS RATES PAPER FINALLY UPDATED

Many of you have been waiting for me to finish updating the Business Rates paper that enables you to make a self 'check' on your Business Rates Bill.

I have now finished updating it and will be working through responding to each of you with this.

Please bear in mind:

- The Business Rates Papers are only available to paid up Members.
- The reduced rates negotiated by PASC UK only apply to England and Wales
- The reduced rates negotiated by PASC UK for self-catering are only currently available to Businesses that have 3+ units on one hereditament.
- It will take a while to work through the backlog as each Members needs to have a run through, before applying their "Check".
- We will be in touch directly to arrange these short sessions.

Our apologies that this has taken longer than anticipated.

LOCKDOWNS

All of the UK is in Lockdown and Self-catering throughout the UK is closed. The earliest that we can realistically expect notification of any change will be the Lockdown Review announced by the PM to be on the 22nd February for England, when a roadmap to re-opening is promised. Wales will not publish a road map, and Scotland extending stay at home until at least the end of February.

Our view remains the very earliest we can hope to come out of meaningful Lockdown is during March, but increasingly likely to be post Easter.

SELF-CATERING AGENCIES WITH HIGH STREET PROPERTIES QUESTION

This is a repeat call, some are getting it, most are not, please let us know either way, so that we can press for these payments to be made 😊

We are getting reports that Self-Catering Agencies with high street properties (Retail Travel Agents heading, so not HQ Business premises) and are currently closed by law are being refused Grants under LRSG Closed and the Chancellors one off Grant for Business Rated Businesses.

Can the Agents who read this Newsletter please let us know if they are getting these Grants and which Councils, they are getting them from? Send info to chair@pascuk.co.uk

GRANTS UPDATE ENGLAND

No further update from last week's information. No additional Grants or changes to Grants for business on Business Rates, see lower down for update on ARG for Council Tax Businesses.

If you want to check out that information, please go to <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/covid-19> and download previous Newsletters.

Across England the grant portals are now open for either LRSB (Closed) or Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment (CBLP).

Please let us know how your Council is performing. We get a lot of emails just telling us “no grants available.” That does not help us lobby to get a more even playing field for Grant support.

We need:

- Your name?
- Your business names?
- Are you on Business Rates or Council Tax?
- Local Council/Billing Authority?
- Name of Grant allowed/denied?

Only with the above can we campaign for this to be rectified. Send to chair@pascuk.co.uk

Thanks

For Businesses on the Council Tax List

For Businesses not on the Business Rates another £594 million has been sent to Councils to top up what is known as the Additional Restrictions Grant. This is discretionary fund. It will be similar to the recent Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG) and the eligibility criteria will be set by your local Council. You will have to check your Council website to see what local eligibility criteria is in place. Find your local council website here: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

We have been pressing HMG to ensure that the ARG is as inclusive as it can possibly be, and that businesses on Council Tax that are required to close are supported.

We are getting mixed news on this across the Country, some councils including self-catering and others not. Please let us know how you are faring so that we can lobby HMG appropriately.

We need:

- Your name?
- Your business names?
- Are you on Business Rates or Council Tax?
- Local Council/Billing Authority?
- Name of Grant allowed/denied?

GRANTS UPDATE SCOTLAND

No further update from last week's information. No additional Grants or changes to Grants.

SHORT TERM LETS LICENSING IN SCOTLAND

A Decision on whether to proceed on this legislation was agreed by the Local Government and Communities Committee on the 3rd February. This will be very unwelcome news to large numbers of self-caterers in Scotland.

It is bizarre that in the middle of a National crisis, with a sector closed and unable to trade, that this was any kind of priority. What started as an AirBnB problem in parts of Edinburgh, will now have consequences for the sector across all of Scotland.

The legislation will be voted on by all MSPs in plenary at a date to be confirmed. Scottish readers and Members should be supporting the ASSC and writing to their MP's on this.

GRANT UPDATES WALES

The ERF Fund has now closed. The Welsh Government published further details on £200m for non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure and tourism businesses that continue to be impacted by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The latest funding is linked to the non-domestic rates system and will operate as a top up to the Restrictions Business Fund which was put in place in early December. The main details announced are:

- Businesses with a rateable value of £12,000 or under will be eligible to receive a payment of £3,000.
- Businesses with a rateable value between £12,001 and £150,000 will be eligible to receive a payment of £5,000.
- The £5,000 grant will be extended through to businesses with a rateable value of up to £500,000.
- A further £30m is also being made available through the discretionary fund to provide up to £2,000 grants for businesses not on the non-domestic rates system.

<https://gov.wales/further-details-200-million-support-welsh-businesses>

Please let us know how your Council is performing. We get a lot of emails just telling us “no grants available.” That does not help us lobby to get a more even playing field for Grant support.

We need:

- Your name?
- Your business names?
- Are you on Business Rates or Council Tax?
- Local Council/Billing Authority?
- Name of Grant allowed/denied?
- Reason for denial of Grant

Only with the above can we campaign for this to be rectified. Send to chair@pascuk.co.uk
Thanks.

GENERAL WALES UPDATE

Yesterday, courtesy of the Wales Tourism Alliance, of which PASC UK is a full Member, we met with the Welsh Government Tourism Cross Party Group (CPG).

Key points coming out of the meeting is that all in private sector tourism in Wales can see that Self-catering is getting a raw deal, with it being the only sector to have extra eligibility criteria to access support grants. The Welsh Government does not accept this uncomfortable truth.

Present on the zoom call were the Tourism Minister, Dafydd Ellis-Thomas, Rob Holt, Director of Tourism Development and Major Events at Visit Wales and Jason Thomas, Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism.

In short, they do not believe that support is not getting through to genuine self-catering businesses in Wales.

The meeting also tried to cover the White Paper on Second Homes and Statutory Registration. Again, without a great deal of success. All parties present made it clear that a transparent consultation was required. The point was also made that any such scheme should be across the whole country, not applied differently by each Council.

There is a really good ground swell of support for our sector from all in the hospitality community. All are surprised that with an election imminent, a crisis at hand, and a closed hospitality sector, that this is the time to launch a White Paper into self-catering.

We are going to have to evidence the fact that support is not getting through. To that end we will be creating a Business Survey that can be shared with all our business partners in Wales.

We will try and create this survey in time for next week's newsletter.

WELSH LOCKDOWN CONTINUES

The First Minister confirmed the alert level 4 lockdown restrictions will remain in place in Wales until at least the 20th February.

Two small changes will be made to the current alert level 4 restrictions:

- A maximum of two people from different households will be able to exercise outdoors together, as long as they maintain social distancing. This must involve exercise starting from and finishing from home – driving for exercise to beauty spots should still not take place.
- If a support bubble arrangement has broken down, a new one can be formed as long as there is gap of 10 days before doing so.

These changes came into effect on Saturday 30 January 2021.

<https://gov.wales/phased-and-flexible-back-to-school-approach-if-coronavirus-cases-continue-to-fall>

LOCKDOWN WORKING AT HOLIDAY HOMES GUIDANCE

Still chasing DCMS for a formal response on this....

We are getting lots of questions on this and are seeking clarification from DCMS. Builders seem to be able to keep working so why can't we work (or our cleaners and maintenance people attend the properties)? That's the essence of the question. Councils and Police interpreting differently in different parts of the country.

We have received this update, again muddy as much Guidance is, and we will seek further clarity. Watch Facebook for any interim updates.

- **Lockdown Guidance Update**

The Going to Work Section of the Lockdown guidance has been updated to clarify that you do not need to be classed as a critical worker to go to work if you cannot work from home. The updated section also states that employers and employees should discuss their working arrangements, and employers should take every possible step to facilitate their employees working from home, including providing suitable IT and equipment to enable remote working. Where people cannot work from home, employers should take steps to make their workplaces COVID-19 secure and help employees avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Extra consideration should be given to those people at higher risk.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#going-to-work>

INSURANCE COMPANIES IN THE SELF-CATERING SECTOR (WORK IN PROGRESS)

Two more added this week.....

With everything that has gone on with insurance for Self-caterers during the pandemic we are often asked the questions about which insurer we recommend.

PASC UK does not recommend any insurer. There are several key players in the field of self-catering insurance.

The first point that we would make is that you choose a policy that is geared to letting short term lets on a professional basis, and not a policy which is no more than a 'tweaked' home insurance policy which so many are. This makes them look excellent value for money, but if the cover is poor if they don't pay out, they are a waste of time.

The second point is to ensure that you have the cover that you are looking for. You won't find the words 'covered for Covid' in these policies going forwards in our view. You should for example, look for appropriate cover for pools or hot tubs if you have them and look for exclusions to cover.

The main players are as follows. Please let us know if you have a dedicated Self-catering policy from any others and how they fared during the pandemic and we'll update this section.

Gallagher's RSA Cottagesure

This is one of the most established policies on the market. Good reputation over a long period. RSA refused Covid cover. They lost at the Supreme Court so claims underway. RSA one of the first to agree not to deduct grants from pay-outs.

<https://cottagesure.co.uk>

Boshers

They do not appear to have paid out at all for Covid related claims, (unless anyone knows different) but have been established for 30 years and previously had a decent reputation.

<https://www.boshers.co.uk/holiday-home-insurance/>

NFU Mutual

NFU Mutual normally have a really good reputation amongst policyholders. They have though had a challenging Covid. Their cheaper Home and Lifestyle policy paid out for Covid, but the more expensive policy did not (unless anyone knows differently). They were the last major insurer to keep deducting Grants from pay-outs although thankfully they have reversed this policy now. Their Cancellation Advance Bookings add-on (see Cancellation Policies paper below) is a really good add on and we are trying to get others to offer similar.

<https://www.nfumutual.co.uk/insurance/home-insurance/>

Schofields

Did very well in the pandemic, paid out for Covid (unless you know different) and their underwriters were the first to say that they would not deduct Grants from pay-outs.

<https://www.schofields.ltd.uk>

NEW Magenta Insurance

Getting reports that this policy did pay out for Business interruption during Covid. They have a holiday cottage policy although may only cover properties with a value of up to £1.5m.

<https://www.magentainsurance.co.uk>

NEW Broker I4me Prestige Policy

This paid out during Covid for 'denial of access' up to £5,000. Defacto rated at 5* and reports suggest competitive rates.

<https://www.i4me.co.uk>

If you have any comments, feedback or think others should be on the list and why? Please email chair@pascuk.co.uk

LARGE GATHERING PENALTY NOTICES DOUBLED

The Government has passed an amendment to Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) (England) Regulations 2020s doubling the fixed penalty notice issued to a person in respect of a large gathering offence. A large gathering is defined as 15 people inside a dwelling. The fines are now:

- £800 – or £400 if the amount is paid within 14 days.

Then

- £1,600 for second offence
- £3,200 for a third offence
- £6,400 for any further offences

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2021/97/contents/made>

NEW PASC UK WEBSITE + DOWNLOAD ISSUES

The work is now well underway on the new PASC UK website. The current one has taken a beating during 2020 and some of you, with high levels of security, particularly if you use AVAST security software, are finding downloads difficult. This will be resolved by the new website.

If you cannot download anything, just drop us an email in the interim, saying what you need, and we will email it to you. Send to chair@pascuk.co.uk

There will be changes made, to reflect what PASC UK is in 2021, so there will be a Members only area so that we can provide additional value to those that pay Membership fees. We anticipate the launch being in February.

WORLDPAY REVIEWING CREDIT CARD FACILITIES (NEW UPDATE 5 FEB)

Over the last few months we have had a number of Members telling us that WorldPay have contacted them and saying that they would like to audit their WorldPay credit card facility.

This week we had a constructive conversation with a Director of World Pay who explained the circumstances under which this may happen.

1/ Change in Financials

They monitor filings at Companies House, any removal of assets from a company, or a deterioration of net worth may start an audit.

2/ Change in payment patterns

This could be in an increase in average value of bookings over a short period of time. This could be an increase in the number of refunds.

3/ Increase in Chargebacks

If this is occurring it can show that the business has poor procedures, either in transacting Secure Payments, or is in conflict with the customers.

4/ Not Owning the asset that is being traded on the World Pay account

This could be that they are operating as an agent, with a booking company or agent taking the bookings and payments, not the actual owner of the property asset. The net worth of the booking company may not be able to support the 'risk' in which case a guarantee may be sought.

So far, we have heard of lots of audits and only two guarantees, these are for much larger than average businesses. Most are brought about by unusual activity, such as large numbers proportionately of chargebacks, which would need to be explained. Large amounts of refunds can also start an audit, but with the chaos such as at Christmas, are nearly always easily and quickly explained and resolved.

We will be inviting WorldPay onto a webinar in the coming weeks, as there is a lot of useful advice available on making sure that as owners, we are protecting ourselves by taking secure payments and how to avoid fraudulent transactions.

KEY LOBBYING OBJECTIVES

Every week in every meeting that we have with officials from Central or Local Governments we ask for continuing support for the Self-catering sector.

We may not mention each and every one of these agenda points in each meeting, that depends on the priorities and time available.

By linking with other associations, such as the Tourism Alliance, The Wales Tourism Alliance, the ASSC and UK Hospitality we can also make sure that these are 'common' asks giving them more weight.

Our current 10 main asks are as follows:

- A support package for those that have not yet been able to access HMG support
- An extension to VAT reduction period to 31st December 2021
- An extension to the Business Rates Holiday to March 2022
- Three weeks' notice of re-opening
- Financial support for businesses that will still be restricted coming out of lockdown, due to single household or rule of six rules
- Allow FHL claims to be made under SEISS
- Remove punitive eligibility criteria on grant applications in Wales
- Stop the Postcode lottery for grant support
- Review of the Tier system, and restrictions of households mixing for reopening
- Common rules across the four nations

WORK IN PROGRESS SECTION

WIP. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING AT SELF-CATERING PROPERTIES PAPER

Getting lots of great feedback and input into this. Please keep it coming. We already have some great stuff but more always useful. We would like to try and complete this in February, so, please, if you have any feedback at all on this send it in. Thanks.

- Grants that may be available
- Good and bad EV maps to be featured on
- Any safety legislation that any of you have come across
- Any data on how much a charge actually costs
- Any issues anyone has come across with insurance
- Anything else you think is relevant

We will of course be doing our own research, but it would speed up the process if any of you have any information to share. Send to chair@pascuk.co.uk

WIP. IHT RELIEF FOR SELF-CATERING PROPERTIES

We got a lot of feedback on this subject so asking anyone who has an interest in this topic, or who may be in the process of challenging HMRC on IHT Relief this to please get in touch.

We have some Members who are at an advanced stage on this and it would be brilliant if we tried to coordinate where applicable. All responses in confidence to chair@pascuk.co.uk

WIP.CHARGEBACKS

A Chargebacks webinar is planned. See Webinars above.

If anyone has any updated feedback or information in this subject, please send it in to chair@pascuk.co.uk

WIP. BUSINESS RATES

An update on the next steps with the Valuation Office will appear in the next Newsletter on 12th February.

- Will cover next Revaluation
- Getting the PASC UK discounts for units of 1-3.

CANCELLATIONS POLICY PAPER

The Cancellations Paper (Draft 1) is now complete and can be downloaded from the website at <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/covid-19>

(Just a note, if you have the Avast anti-spam system it does not like the PASC UK website. We can assure you that the site is not insecure, but to make it as easy as possible for you, and you have the Avast system, please email chair@pascuk.co.uk and put Cancellations in the subject line and we'll email you a copy).

Please have a read and let us have your feedback on it, we will then update the paper, and republish. There is a link to the Webinar on Cancellations Policies above.

Once again huge thanks to Beth Bailey and Nick Clayson at Premier Cottages, Robert Kennedy at SuperControl for their contributions and Lorna Handyside and Linda Winstanley the ace proof-readers. 😊

UPDATED PROTOCOLS

The work to update the Cleaning Protocols is complete. These are available on the website at <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/standards>

(Just a note, if you have the Avast anti-spam system it does not like the PASC UK website. We can assure you that the site is not insecure, but to make it as easy as possible for you, and you have the Avast system, please email chair@pascuk.co.uk and put Protocols in the subject line and we'll email you a copy).

The revision has a short section at the beginning of the main protocols in green that highlights changes.

If you have any questions arising from these, or have any suggestions for future changes, please let us know by contacting chair@pascuk.co.uk

ONLINE TOOLS FOR FINDING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT (UPDATED)

Summary of Existing Financial Support

HM Treasury has published a summary of all the support that is available, this is a really useful summary and has links to all the separate support mechanisms under the following categories:

- Employees

- Businesses
- Unemployed
- Low income families
- Local Authorities
- Devolved Administrations

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summary-of-existing-economic-support/summary-of-existing-economic-support>

The online tool for finding out what support is available for your businesses has been updated to reflect recent changes:

<https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder>

PASC UK MEMBERS LOGO



Please only display if you are a fully paid up Member. You can get a copy by sending an email to admin@pascuk.co.uk Thanks.

PASC UK AWARDS

There will be a further delay in finalising these. We haven't had any time to look at this this week. Further nominations welcome. We will try to do this asap as a bit of fun. Goodness knows we need some, further suggestions to chair@pascuk.co.uk

SUPPORT LOBBYING BY JOINING PASC UK

There is a huge amount of work and lobbying to do to help support you all in the self-catering sector. We haven't directly asked before, however if we are to fight on so many fronts, we simply need more funds. There are thousands of you that have had the benefit of this newsletter and the lobbying done on behalf of the sector.

We are now asking that as many of you as possible join PASC UK. The fight is on so many fronts, and we get much better results when we engage proper legal advice, proper PR firms to assist with campaigns such as the #justpayit (which we will shortly need to run again, more on that later) and Memberships to other organisations that provide common lobbying, information feeds and support.

Membership fees are as follows: All per annum.

- Single cottage £70
- 2 – 4 Units £125
- 5 – 10 Units £200

- 11 + Units £300

For companies like cleaning firms, or industry support companies, Associate Membership is £200.

Members get telephone support and priority email support.

You can join here, simple form, takes 2 mins, and we'll send an invoice, payable by BACS.

<https://www.pascuk.co.uk/copy-of-become-a-member-1>

MEMBER RENEWALS

Huge favour to ask of regulars, when you get your renewal through please pay it. The logistics of chasing waste hugely valuable time that could be spent doing far more useful things for all. If you don't want to renew, all you have to do is say so.

PASC UK CLOSING AT WEEKENDS

PASC UK is now closed at the weekends for phone and email. We have a self-catering business as well to run and manage through all the same issues that you all have. Many thanks.

ABOUT PASC UK

PASC UK was formed three years ago. It had three principle objectives at that time. The overriding purpose of PASC UK is to help make your business more profitable.

- 1/ Reduce Business Rates for self-catering
- 2/ Lobby for a 'level playing field', where all accommodation providers had to operate under the same rules, (think the 350,000 AirBnB properties). So that all have the same proportionate costs and regulations to operate under.
- 3/ Recover the right to Inheritance Tax Relief for legitimate business operating under FHL (Furnished Holiday Lettings rules).

And more.... See www.pascuk.co.uk

In January 2019, PASC UK succeeded in negotiating a reduction in Business Rates of up to 35% for most self-caterers in England and Wales. Despite a tortuous year with getting the Valuation Office to apply the new system, in January 2020 they switched the system to manual for Self-Caterers, (SCAT-131) and we now hear daily of Members getting great reductions and refunds. Guides on how to Check your Business Rates are available to Members.

After years of lobbying, giving evidence to all Party Parliamentary Groups and working with all the other major accommodation associations in the UK, we had finally got HMG to agree to a roundtable on how to regulate the short-term accommodation sector. Our approach has been one of keeping the sector 'safe and legal'. This meeting has been delayed by the COVID-19 outbreak but will be high on the agenda post the virus restrictions being lifted.

We were also making good progress in our representations to HMG about the reinstatement of Inheritance Tax Relief to FHL businesses provided they complied with a basic business criteria. This is also on hold whilst we all deal with the COVID-19 challenge but will be picked up as soon as practicable.

And much more....

Wishing each and every one of you all the best during these trying times, and please Stay Safe.

Best regards

Alistair Handyside MBE

Executive Chair

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DISCLAIMER

We are in completely uncharted territory here, and any suggestions that we make are merely that and you should carefully consider your own business policies, and if necessary, consult with your Professional Advisors. PASC is your lobbying Association, not a legal service. In addition, please be very wary of some of the advice given on internet communities, blogs and social media. There appear to be thousands of experts out there where my understanding is that there are very few.

To that end, any information you get from any source you must double check. I will always try and put the actual link to the information in the newsletters so that you can read and assess yourselves. These are unprecedented times, please take exceptional care.

