



Professional Association of Self-Caterers UK

COVID GUIDELINES NEWSLETTER

30 April 2021

Issue 56

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- New PASC UK Website and Download issues
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Available from previous newsletters as marked.
These can be found on www.pascuk.co.uk

- Covid Secure Business Poster see **23 April Newsletter**
- SEISS Repayment Guidance updated **23 April Newsletter**

- Companies House Guidance Updated **23 April Newsletter**
- Deferred VAT Guidance, further update **23 April Newsletter**
- **UPDATE** Questions about Self-Contained Accommodation and shared entrances England **See 9 April**
- **UPDATE** QR Codes and Recording guests contact details in England **See 16 April**
- Cookies and Privacy Policies will become out of date this summer **See 16 April**
- Revised Cleaning Protocols **See 16 April**
- England Restart Grants **Update See 16 April**
- New Member Benefit Buying Club **See 16 April**
- Fines for Non-Covid Compliance **See 16 April**
- Second Homes and the correct mortgage **See 16 April**
- How best to communicate all the changes to guests? **See 9 April**
- Wedding Show Rounds **See 9 April**
- CJRS Furlough Guidance updated **See 9 April**
- WIFI Support UK Gigabit Voucher launched **See 9 April**
- Ethical Low Commission OTA to launch in the UK **See 9 April**
- The PASC UK/ASSC Grants Survey is published **See 9 April**
- Checklist for opening properties **see 26 March**
- Updated Opening guidance in England **see 2 April**
- Update on Guest Numbers in Scotland **see 2 April**
- Wales Road Map **see 2 April**
- Wales Tourism FAQ's **see 2 April**
- General Wales Update **see 2 April**
- New Recovery Loans **see 26 March**
- England Restart Grants details **see 19 March**
- England Council tax-based Grants (ARG) (non Business Rates) **see 19 March**
- Definition of 'self-contained' accommodation in Wales. **see 26 March**
- COVID risk Assessments to enable you to open in Wales **see 26 March**
- Scotland Business Rates Grants **see 19 March**
- Additional Grant in Scotland for eligible Council Tax paying businesses **see 26 March**
- Scotland Road Map **see 19 March**
- Opportunists reletting your property without your knowledge **see 26 March**
- HMRC to launch consultation into holiday lets and Business Rates **see 26 March**
- VAT Deferral scheme updated **see 26 March**
- Other TAX reviews coming up from HMRC **see 26 March**
- Business Rates Review, Interim Report **see 26 March**
- Business Show Rounds **see 26 March**
- Key Lobbying Objectives **see 26 March**
- FCA Business interruption Policy Checker and FAQ **see 26 March**
- Cancellations Policy Paper **see 26 March**
- PASC UK Awards **see 26 March**

SUPPORT GUIDELINES

We get 100+ emails a day, plus 20+ phone calls, so we have to reiterate the support rules please.

- **Paid up** Members get phone and email support. Please put property name in Subject line
- Non-Member emails will get dealt with after Members emails
- We cannot respond to questions on Facebook and Linked in
- Please read the most recent Newsletter before calling/emailing
- Recent Newsletters are on the website

The email address to use in chair@pascuk.co.uk

Many thanks, your support with this would be much appreciated.

PASC UK SOCIAL MEDIA

Please follow PASC on Twitter [@PascUK](https://twitter.com/PascUK)
Please on Facebook [@pascukltd](https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd)

This is where the latest news between newsletters gets posted.

COMMENTARY

To try and shrink the newsletter in advance of the new style that will be launched with the new website, pretty much anything that has not changed, is not in this newsletter. So, if you need to find out about how much the Restart Grants are in England, or the Business Rates grants in Scotland, or what 'self-contained' means in Wales we ask you to refer to previous newsletters. If these are not to hand, then you can download from www.pascuk.co.uk.

Firstly, huge thanks to everyone for letting us have a few days peace and quiet, we appreciate it and are really grateful. This has been a quieter week with the new rules and guidance finally getting less and less as we move steadily towards re-opening.

We anticipate that we will be able to catch up with all outstanding emails and voicemails by Tuesday midday. If you have not heard by then, please do give us a nudge.

We did get some panic calls, mostly about Health and Safety Executive (HSE) calls and visits, these really do not present compliant businesses with any problems. We were also hoping to have the legal Guides on ICO and CCTV rules, but these are not quite ready, they will be shortly and free to all.

The Electric Vehicle Charging Guide is also nearly finished so that will be available soon too.

So, for the first time in a long time, all of us can open, those with larger properties and shared facilities still in a really limited way, but the vast majority can now start trading and recovering. We will be focussing next week on getting the rest open properly too.

Thanks.

HEALTH AND SAFETY VISITS AND CHECKS

Lots of urgent calls and emails about telephone calls from the Health and Safety Executive and wanting to know if they are genuine.

There are genuine random checks being made. We'll list here what they are asking, and in the lower section of this post, tell you how to verify if it is real call or visit.

They ask a series of questions...

- They check the business type
- They check you are the owner & able to speak for the business
- They ask when you re-opened
- They ask for your Risk Assessment
- They ask you if you understand the re-opening guidelines
- They ask about your Covid preparations for guests

All the above information is available in recent newsletters and in the Cleaning Protocols available freely on the PASC UK website.

Most of these checks will take place by phone, but some will take place in person.

HOW TO CHECK IT'S VALID?

Full details of the HSE's Covid Spot Check Inspection Program can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/campaigns/spot-inspections. Other information can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/index, and other guidance relating to safe working during the covid crisis can be found on the .Gov website at <http://www.gov.uk/.../working-safely-during-coronavirus...>

Any visitor claiming to be an Enforcement Authority Inspector either from a Local Authority or the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) will carry and be happy to produce an Identity/ Warrant Card, if from the HSE (Covid) Field Force they will carry a 'Letter of Authority' and should offer this or be prepared to show it when asked, the validity of the Field Force letters can be verified by contacting the (HSE Field Force) Concerns and Verifications number which is 0300 003 1647. Any (Stage 2) telephone caller (assessor) should supply their HSE contact number (if asked) and the HSE Concerns and Verification Number which is 0300 790 6896.

You may get a call from Civica who have been contracted by the HSE to carry out an initial (stage 1) assessment. You can check that this valid through the same procedure above.

REMINDER ABOUT WHAT CAN AND CANNOT OPEN IN ENGLAND.

Spas are able to open at the moment if operated in a Covid secure manner. However, that doesn't mean that all facilities in the spa can open. So, saunas and steam rooms have to remain closed.

There is no specific guidance on hot tubs – PASC UK view would be that if they are for personal use then it's fine to use them. If they are a shared facility, then they would need to be for the use of one group at a time (no hot tub parties) and cleaned between each group's use.

Indoor games and recreation facilities, such as bowling alleys, skating rinks, go-karting venues, indoor play and soft play centres and areas remain closed until Step 3 – so can't be used this weekend.

Swimming pools, both indoor and outdoor were able to open on 12 April if managed in a Covid secure way.

Shared laundries at self-catering can open if managed in a Covid secure way.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/the-visitor-economy>

WHICH? MAGAZINE REVIEWS COVID-SAFE SCHEMES.

Interesting section in the current Which? edition about Covid-Safe programmes. Essentially very critical of businesses marking their own homework, with little if any checks. Quality in Tourism's Safe, Clean & Legal comes out again as the Gold Standard and remains the PASC UK recommended option.

Businesses are marking their own homework.
It's a huge conflict of interest

You can find out more at: <https://www.qualityintourism.com/pasc>

Accommodation



VisitBritain We're Good to Go
 Of 12,640 Good to Go accommodation businesses, VisitBritain has inspected just 354 – less than 3%. While lockdown has slowed progress, VisitBritain told us that spot checks weren't a prerequisite, but to audit compliance and investigate complaints. Last year, we found evidence of poor cleaning at the approved Folkestone Britannia hotel. VisitBritain said it saw no reason to drop it from the scheme after receiving 'confirmation of cleanliness processes'. Britannia said there's 'more to do' despite spending £2m on Covid precautions. To join, applicants only need to tick a few boxes to say they have a Covid risk assessment in place and are following guidelines. These businesses now also automatically get the WTTC's Safe Travels stamp. After all, why have one pointless badge when you can have two?



AA Covid-19 confident
 This free-of-charge scheme is open to all types of accommodation, including pubs with rooms and glamping pods. It's another convenient online self-assessment application – but AA told us managers are asked to submit evidence of a completed risk assessment and relevant staff training. They must also agree to adapt to changing guidelines and submit to future audits 'as required'. In return, properties will receive the AA Covid-19 Confident logo for their website and a digital certificate to display at their property. In March, the AA had spot-checked 10% of properties, a number it intends to grow when restrictions are lifted. The AA told us that the self-assessment was just 'one element', adding that only 53% of applicants had been approved so far.



Global Secure Accreditation Certificate of International Good Practice
 Designed by security and safety specialists the Global Secure Accreditation (GSA), this certificate verifies that 'all reasonable steps' are being taken to 'stop and limit' the threat of Covid-19. Each property is audited by an independent assessor, either with an evidence-based online process (including photos or videos of Covid-19 measures) or an on-site inspection. Although, assessments are taking place virtually because of restrictions. The GSA told us that applicants are monitored at regular intervals to check they're continuing to maintain standards. Assessors also dish out site-specific advice for following best practice, which – in our eyes – has a lot more clout than a one-size-fits-all checklist.



Quality in Tourism Safe, Clean & Legal
 This pass or fail scheme was originally launched in 2018 to ensure hotels and holiday rentals had appropriate fire safety and hygiene standards in place. It's been updated to include Covid-19 measures. Crucially, all properties are inspected by an independent third party – who examines high-touch areas, such as handles and remote controls, and even swabs for bacteria if concerned. Currently, Best Western is approved and Which? Recommended Provider Forest Holidays is going through the lengthy application process. Quality in Tourism's director, Deborah Heather, dismisses any scheme that doesn't inspect every property. She told us: 'It's misleading if nobody is checking the life and limb stuff. Consumers have no idea they could be putting their relatives at risk.'

ICO UPDATE, DO HOLIDAY LET OWNERS NEED TO PAY? UPDATE

The paper on this has been commissioned with our Solicitors and will be available to all shortly.

Much confusion this week about whether we all need to register with the ICO and pay an annual fee, normally £40 for doing so. This is called the Data Protection Fee.

The rules about this have changed and PASC UK has now commissioned an FAQ on this from our solicitors to guide you through this. It is highly likely that 90% of you will not have to sign up, so please do not go and register and pay until we have published the paper and you can see whether you have to or not.

We will make this paper available to everyone, whether or not you are a paid-up Member.

If you want to find out more for yourselves, please look here: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-fee/>

CCTV. DO WE NEED A LICENCE? UPDATE

The paper on this has been commissioned with our Solicitors and will be available to all shortly.

Some interesting calls this week, where owners have had CCTV and it has not been properly disclosed to the guests, (filmed in hot tubs) who are the suing the owners. We have commissioned another paper from our Solicitors to let you exactly what your obligations are regarding CCTV.

We will make this paper available to everyone, whether or not you are a paid-up Member.

If you want to find out more for yourselves, please look here: <https://www.caughtoncamera.net/news/cctv-legal-requirements-cctv-laws-explained/>

SECOND HOMES AND BUSINESS RATES UPDATE

We have finally made contact with the Government Department involved in this, it is being led by MHCLG (The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government) and have a review meeting next week. Our goal is to try and avoid any unintended consequences.

If you have any thoughts or comments to feed into this review, please send them promptly to chair@pascuk.co.uk

The review is about how Second Homes can be rated for Business Rates. This has come about due to thousands of second homes applying to come out of Council Tax to go onto Business Rates to take advantage of SBRR (Small Business Rates Relief) and subsequently pay zero in Business Rates. This is called 'flipping' and was always going to end badly, especially as large numbers of these second homes subsequently attracted the Business Rates support Grants during the crisis. Some Councils are retrospectively clawing these back.

Currently in England you can get a property out of Council Tax and onto Business Rates if you have the 'intention' to let for 140 days. The most likely outcome is that owners will have to 'prove' at least 140 days' worth of bookings.

We have made a formal request of the two Government Departments involved, DCMS and MHCLG, to provide us with the process for inputting into this review.

We will let you know as soon as we have anything to share.

GHOSTING PAPER AND WEBINAR

Over the last few weeks, we have had considerable feedback about what is called 'ghosting'. This most commonly occurs when you leave a website that you advertise on, and they leave your property on there, and often put a note below, saying 'no longer available for bookings'. Getting these pages removed can take considerable effort. Leaving the page up can cause serious damage to your businesses.

We have commissioned a short paper on this from our solicitors, which will explain the obvious steps you can take to action removal of your images and property name from these sites. Where the site refuses, we have also asked them to propose a reasonable value legal support package to assist owners in doing this.

This is all closely related to 'intellectual property rights' (IPR) so in the Webinar we will also cover what are your Intellectual Property Rights, how best to protect them and how not to breach others IPR.

More details to follow shortly....

SCOTLAND UPDATE

Only one minor change for self-catering this week, on Test and Protect, see below. It is getting harder to get answers to questions whilst the Politicians are electioneering. The senior politicians in all the Governments kept decision making as close to the top as possible, which means when they're focussed on anything else, especially an election their eye go right off the ball. Keep an eye on PASC UK Facebook for last minute announcements.

Late last Friday the Scottish Government announced that collecting Test and Protect Data in self-catering is not mandatory. <https://www.assc.co.uk/test-protect-in-self-catering>

WALES UPDATE

The Welsh Government has confirmed that the planned relaxations to move to Alert Level 3 on Monday 3rd May will take place.

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-restrictions-relaxations-confirmed>

We have some outstanding questions with the Welsh Government for some time, but still no written answer. Whilst in purdah this is proving extremely frustrating.

The Questions are:

Q: Can self-contained accommodation have an extended household/two households to stay from 3 May? This would increase the levels of bookings dramatically. Currently it just says 'meet' not the critical 'stay'.

A: The general view at the Wales Tourism Alliance (WTA) meeting yesterday is that this is a yes, unless we hear otherwise.... Verbal yes from Welsh Government.

Q: Confirmation that children under 11 are not counted in the numbers

A: Again, consensus from WTA meeting yesterday that this will be as last year, and under 11's are not counted.

Q: Confirmation of when shared facilities can open, especially pools. Pools can open in England now, so this is real disadvantage to Welsh businesses with pools.

A: Absolutely no clarity offered on this by Welsh Government, so still closed.

Q: Does self-contained accommodation have to display QR codes and gather all the guest data?

A: Verbally told that we do, but it is not in writing. Advice at WTA meeting was for businesses to display the QR Codes, if the Welsh Government put the requirement to hold all guest data in writing then it can be gathered from that point on.

This is the most up to date info that we can find.

In Wales, there is a legal requirement for some sectors to keep records of staff, customers and visitors to directly support the NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect service with contact tracing in the event there is an outbreak linked to higher risk settings.

Accommodation providers in Wales are not currently included within this list of sectors at on the basis that they collect visitor details as a matter of course through the booking process, but this is kept under constant review in terms of the effective supply of this information in supporting contact tracing should an outbreak be linked to an accommodation provider.

More information is available here: <https://gov.wales/keeping-records-staff-customers-and-visitors-test-trace-protect>.

Full Tourism & Hospitality guidance: <https://gov.wales/guidance-for-tourism-and-hospitality-businesses-coronavirus-html>

RECORDINGS OF PASC UK WEBINARS

Free Webinar on 'Self-catering Futures, building a world class business'

Date Broadcast: 7th April

Time: 1600-1730

Recording can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/RSOcLT7b1t8>

We are poised to have a really busy summer this year, as most will not be able, or perhaps willing, to go abroad. What can we do with our businesses to win over these new customers long term? How can we increase our repeat customers as we head towards a really competitive landscape in 2022/2023 when the international markets open up?

Clean: Deborah Heather, Director, Quality in Tourism

Green: Alistair Handyside, Chair PASC UK and owner Higher Wiscombe Ltd

The Experience: Bill Lee, Founder and CEO of Yonder, an ethical OTA

How tech will play its part?

Robert Kennedy: Director SuperControl. Beyond Pricing

Richard Vaughton: Rentivo and Yes Consulting

Andy McNulty: Touch Stay enhancements

Panel Questions

How to become an Accessible Business and Why?

Why should you consider getting involved in the Accessible market? Find out from a panel of experts about the market, what you can expect, what is the financial impact, what you need to do, and how to go about entering this sector.

Key points to consider:

- Market worth £3.2 billion in overnight stays
- Make up 15% of overnight stays
- The guests spend more per night and stay longer

The team will present the market opportunity, the how to's and the benefits, followed by a Q&A session to the whole panel

Date Broadcast: 24 March

Time: 1100 - 1230

Recording can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/vgU8F-Ww-q8>

Agenda

- Intro: Alistair Handyside, Chair PASC UK
- The Market Opportunity: Ross Calladine, Head of Business Support VisitEngland.
- Accessible does not mean design compromise: Diane Howarth, Cottages in the Dales.
- Marketing the accessible product: Beth Bailey, Kernock Cottages.
- Impact on the bookings: Robert Kennedy, Director SuperControl.
- The National Accessible Scheme: Annette Burgess, Regional Operations Manager, VE Assessments.
- Panel Q & A

Touch Stay Free Webinar

Touch Stay have organised a webinar to share short term lettings successes during the pandemic.

Date: Broadcast 16 March 2021

Time: 5pm

Recording can now be viewed here: <https://touchstay.com/pandemic-self-catering-success/>

Come meet, listen to and chat with four industry professionals who will share stories of happy guests and accommodation professionals during Covid.

Hosting success stories

Tips and tricks gleaned from different countries

How their organizations supported their members during the pandemic crisis
What can self-catering/vacation rental owners do to make 2021 a success and help
2022 sell itself

Panellists:

- Alistair Handyside (Chair, PASC UK; Owner of Higher Wiscombe)
- Merilee Karr (Chair, Short Term Accommodation Association; Founder & CEO, UndertheDoormat)
- Dave Krauss (Founder & Exec., Rent Responsibly)
- Alexa Nota (Founder & Exec., Rent Responsibly)

“Pros and Cons of Self-catering Agents or Going Direct?”

Recording can now be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/491JitUxB0s>

Date broadcast: Wednesday 24 February 2021

Time: 1500 -1630

This webinar featured the pros and cons of both the self-catering agency route and of taking your bookings direct. Plus, it also features the Q&A on the Road Maps

“Chargebacks”

Recording can now be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/OhR2Q3Dbxes>

Date Broadcast: Wednesday 17 February 2021

Time: 1500 -1630

Avoid them (why they occur, how to minimise the probability).

Understand what they are, the variants, and what to expect.

Be competent and efficient at dealing with them.

Put a good case together to win a dispute.

“Cyber Security Webinar”

Your Chair helped organise this webinar in his role as Chair of the SW Tourism Alliance, in Conjunction with the SW business Council and The SW Cyber Resilience Centre.

<https://youtu.be/aY8p716GA1g>

LEGIONELLA

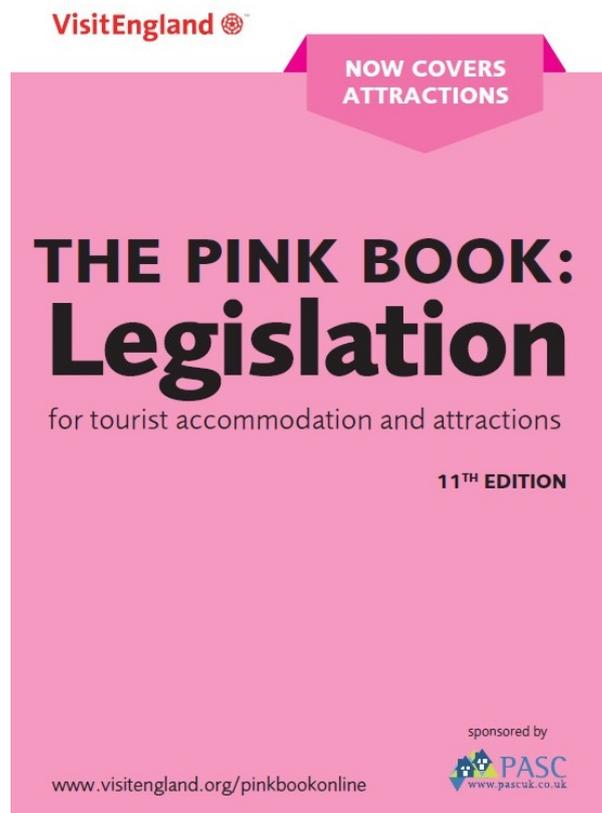
Legionella is the big risk. No more than a week before having your first guests back in you must do a flush and clean through of the water systems. Water that has been standing, in many cases luke-warm, is a far greater risk to your guests in your property than Covid is. You can download from the website an easy-to-use short guide on what you need to do to deal with this.

UPDATED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FINDER

The government’s online tool for helping businesses find what financial support they are entitled to has been updated in line with recent changes to support announced in the budget

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH VISIT ENGLAND AND THE PINK BOOK

We are pleased to announce that PASC UK will be the sponsor for the Visit England Pink Book for the next two years.



The newly update Edition 11 has been now been published, and we are sponsoring both the printed version and the online copy.

Printed versions will be sent to all PASC UK members, and online versions will be free to download. We will put a note in the Newsletter and on Facebook when the updated version is online.

The Pink Book is written by Kurt Janson, who also leads the day to day activities of the Tourism Alliance. Kurt is also a Board Member of PASC UK.

The book contains exactly what is says on the cover, all the rules and regulations for tourist accommodation and is written in clear terms, not jargon or legalise.

PASC UK believes, and has done from day one, that all paid for accommodation should be 'safe and legal' and PASC UK curates this wider campaign in the UK. Sponsoring the Pink Book is another step forward is seeing this happen.

BUSINESS RATES PAPER FINALLY UPDATED (REPEAT)

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.

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 early April

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.

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
The Professional Association of Self-Caterers UK
www.pascuk.co.uk
chair@pascuk.co.uk
07771 678028



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.