



Professional Association of Self-Caterers UK

COVID NEWSLETTER

7 January 2022 Issue 91

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PASC UK SOCIAL MEDIA

Please follow PASC on Twitter @PascUK AND on Facebook @pascukltd
This is where the latest news between newsletters gets posted.

WHERE TO FIND PREVIOUS ITEMS COVERED IN PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

The 2021 news items are now indexed at the bottom of the 17 December newsletter and can be downloaded from www.pascuk.co.uk

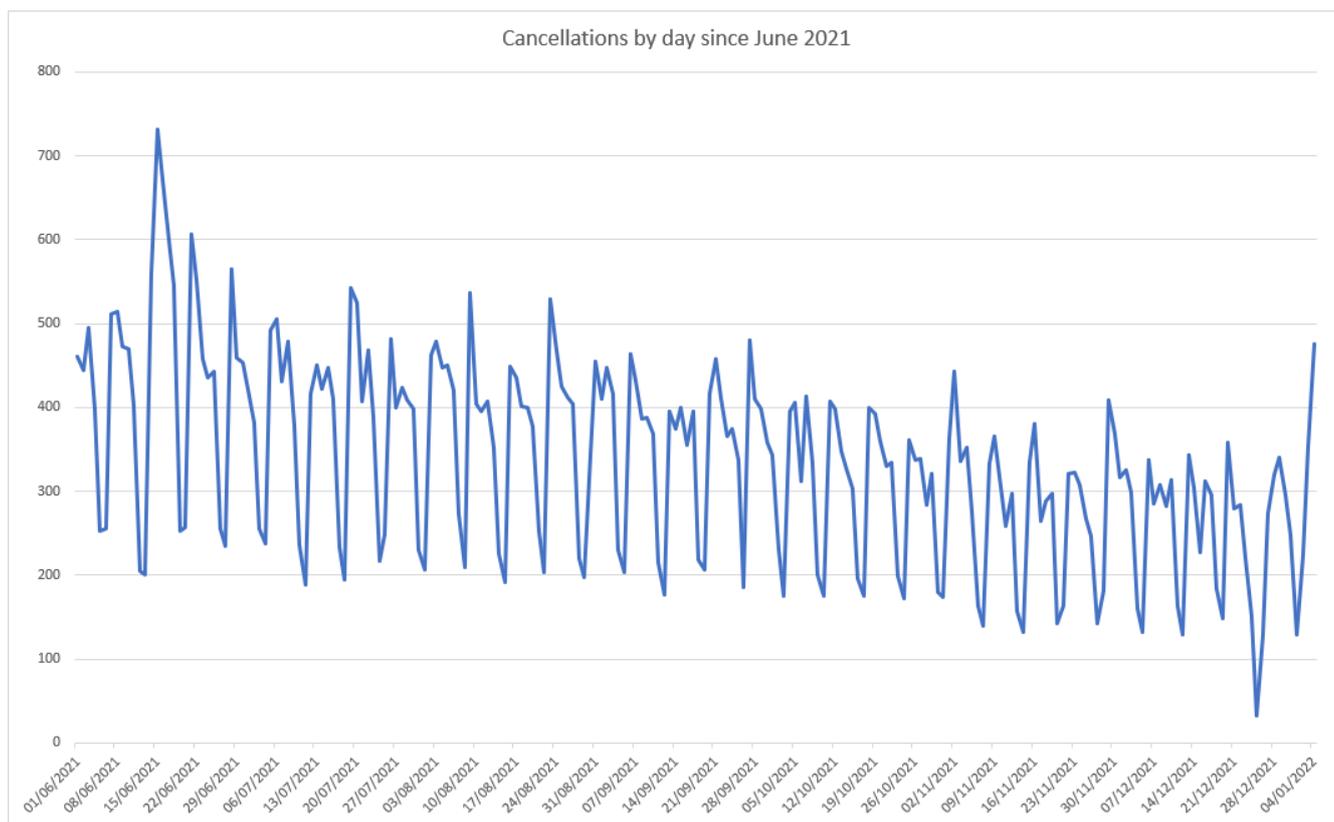
COMMENTARY

Firstly, we wish every reader of this newsletter a Happy New Year. Whilst there is still some unease in the market, we can still look forward to a good 2022 overall, hopefully the best ever year for self-catering in the UK, if no nasty variants of Covid emerge that impact our sector. I'm sure that we all have everything crossed that this will be the case.

Currently, as we write this newsletter, it seems that the threat of further restrictions is receding rather than increasing, none are announced affecting our sector this week.

We have though heard from some Members that suffered cancellations over the festive period, and we really feel for them losing key revenue just as the sector had begun to recover. Overall, though cancellations were few and far between.

This graph from SuperControl, who transacted a £1 billion worth of UK bookings in 2022 show that there has been no serious spike in cancellations overall in December, and although there are cancellations the overall pattern is reducing not increasing.



Early indications are that bookings at this point for January are running at really high levels too. This may be in some way due to the number of holidays abroad that are being cancelled. Headlines such as 'Nine Million holidays at risk' will continue to push domestic demand. See here: <https://bit.ly/3FZCT1c>

Next week we hope to be able to publish the data from Q4 2021, which we already know will show record trading for our sector for that quarter. With January already looking good, and lots of very late, last-minute bookings coming in its critical to keep availability and pricing right up to date.

Lots of coverage and comments on the Grants over the last ten days. Everything from 'phew, thank goodness' to 'why are they offering them?' This shows how differently businesses in our sector have been affected recently.

The three Governments have all chosen to administer them differently. The details as we have them across England, Scotland and Wales are detailed below. In Scotland there is zero for self-catering, in Wales the previous criteria will be applied to Business Rates based businesses which means that many will miss out again. In England they have just opted for the three tier grants based on your Business Rates.

All three systems get criticisms, in England because every second home how on Business Rates gets another grant, regardless of how bookings have gone, some horrendous headlines following that, which helps the sector not at all.

It is hard for Governments to get these out quickly and get them right, we could though reasonably have expected some sensible fine tuning, which we have been lobbying for, to try and ensure that these grants get to those business that have actually been affected. We will continue to lobby as hard as we can for this to happen, should we ever be in further restrictions, where grant support is made available.

Next week we will be announcing the winners of the PASC UK 2021 Awards. These are for a small number of businesses and individuals that we believe have made a difference, either to the work that PASC UK has been able to do or have moved the sector forwards over the last two years. There will be a small number of awards this year, chosen by a panel. Next Year the PASC UK Awards will broaden out and as we enter Q4 will be decided by a public vote by the Members.

We will also start announcing the PASC UK webinar programme. This will include dates for the following.

- The PASC UK Buying Groups, why you should consider joining (it's free to Members, over 500 have joined) and what the benefits are.
- Reducing your energy bills if you are on commercial tariffs. This will be in conjunction with the PASC UK buying group.
- A further Hampers zoom meeting, this time in the evening for those that have been unable to attend so far.
- A series of Webinars on Risk Assessments. Fire, Pools, Hot Tubs etc.
- A series of Zoom Meetings for the Members to ask the Chair anything about self-catering
- A webinar on the forthcoming Statutory Registration Scheme in England
- And more...

The newsletter this week once again focuses on the current rules and grants, and next week will revert to updating the sector on a wide range of other issues.

Please, please keep watching our Facebook page, this is where any changes will be first notified. See here on Facebook @pascukltd

As always, we wish you all the very best, and wish each one of you a safe, prosperous and settled 2022.

Best regards Alistair

UPDATE ON COVID RESTRICTIONS.

Any changes will be posted up on our Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd>

ENGLAND

As at 1730 on the 6th January there have been no further Restrictions brought into effect in England, so far none directly affect self-catering, bar the requirement to wear masks in reception areas. Announcements in England can come out at almost any time and will be published on the PASC UK Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd>

The Westminster Government has brought in Plan B. Full details available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19/hotels-and-guest-accommodation>

Accommodation Primary Guidance Updated

The primary guidance for accommodation businesses has now been updated regarding the wearing of facemasks in public areas. The guidance is essentially the same as when previous rules on wearing masks were in place, specifically this means:

- Staff and other workers must wear face coverings when they are working in any indoor area that is open to the public and where they are likely to come into contact with a member of the public.
- If there is a barrier, such as a screen, between workers and members of the public, staff behind the barrier or screen are not required to wear a face covering.
- Staff are not required to wear face coverings when they are in areas that aren't open to the public (such as a back office) or are unlikely to come into contact with the public (such as maintenance staff working in cordoned-off areas).
- Staff are not required to wear face coverings when they are in hospitality facilities (such as restaurants and bars), and other areas which are mainly being used for eating or drinking (such as a room or area hired for a drinks reception).
- A face visor or shield may be worn in addition to a face covering but not instead of one. This is because face visors or shields do not adequately cover the nose and mouth, and do not filter airborne particles.
- If any of your staff work in close contact with guests (such as massage therapists, security staff, beauticians), or work in contaminated areas (such as cleaners and housekeeping staff) you should also think about whether they need additional protection or personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- People can take off their face covering when they have a good reason to remove it (a 'reasonable excuse'). For example, people can take off their face covering when they are eating or drinking in any area. They must put their face covering back on when this reason no longer applies (when they have stopped eating or drinking).

And on a more general basis.....

- From Friday 10 December, face coverings will become compulsory in most public indoor venues, such as cinemas, theatres and places of worship. There will be exemptions in venues where it is not practical to wear one, such as when you are eating, drinking or exercising. For that reason, face masks will not be required in hospitality settings.

- From Friday 10 December, face coverings will be legally required in most public indoor venues, including public areas of hotels and guest accommodation facilities.
- From Monday 13 December, office workers who can work from home should do so. Anyone who cannot work from home should continue to go to the workplace.
- From Wednesday 15 December (subject to parliamentary approval) the NHS Covid Pass on the NHS App will become mandatory for entry into nightclubs and settings where large crowds gather, including:
 - Unseated indoor venues with more than 500 people
 - Unseated outdoor venues with more than 4,000 people
 - Any venue with more than 10,000 people.

SCOTLAND

Measures in Scotland.

As at 1730 on 6th January 2022, no further restrictions, beyond those beyond those detailed below have been added. The announcements in Scotland can come out at almost any time, so please keep an eye on the PASC UK Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd>

Couple of points to note... self-catering and exclusive use accommodation does not need to implement 1m social distancing. On number of guests, three households is advice only advice...albeit strong advice. Sturgeon stated, "Although it is guidance, please do not think of it as optional." Quite how that works in practice is unclear.

We believe this will be in place for three weeks from 27 December.

Update to Restrictions and Guidance for Tourist Accommodation.

From 27 December, tourist accommodation (including hotels, hostels, boarding or guest houses, members clubs and bed and breakfast accommodation providers) and indoor tourist attractions will be required to:

- Implement one metre physical distancing between groups of customers in tourist accommodation and indoor tourist attractions. Business and premises should bear in mind that this may impact their capacity limit. Current guidance advises customers to limit their groups to a maximum of three households.
- Implement table service for food and drink in tourism accommodation and indoor attractions where alcohol is sold for consumption, or consumed, on the premises. Ordering at a bar is permitted if table service is not practical in the premises. In this case, a queuing system with physical distancing should in place and customers must return to their table to consume any food or drink. Table service does not apply where alcohol is not served or consumed on the premises. Buffet services in tourist accommodation for breakfast and other meals are permitted if a queuing system with physical distancing is in place and customers return to their table.
- Self-catering / exclusive use accommodation is not included in the requirement to implement physical distancing.
- A group is defined as two or more members of the same household, or of a group formed of more than one household attending the premises together. The strong advice is that people should not meet in groups of more than three households.

- Accommodation providers should take reasonable measures to ensure physical distancing between self-defined groups in spaces such as shared dining areas, lounges, shared kitchens, hallways / entrance areas and in the case of hostels - shared dormitory rooms.

In addition to the above, premises in the tourism and hospitality sector should continue to observe ongoing baseline measures, such as wearing of face coverings when not seated in hospitality, recording customer contact details and observing good hygiene practices throughout premises.

Read more here..... <https://bit.ly/3HnG3Mv>

WALES

Restrictions in Wales

As at 1730 on 6th January 2022, no further restrictions, beyond those beyond those detailed below have been added. The announcements in Wales often still come out on Friday afternoon, so please keep an eye on the PASC UK Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd>

The previous Alert Level 2 was for extended household and support bubble only – this has been removed.

Up to 30 people can stay in self-catering and a maximum of three households can stay at the same time in the accommodation.

The big distinction is it is guidance, not mandatory. This applies to SC businesses as well as for the home - so stated as a "rule of thumb" for people to follow.

What can open at alert level 2

- Schools, colleges and childcare providers.
- Higher education institutions (mix of in-person and remote learning).
- Licensed premises.
- Retail.
- Close contact services.
- Hospitality.
- Holiday accommodation.
- Entertainment venues.
- Visitor attractions.
- Leisure and fitness facilities, including gyms and swimming pools.
- Museums and Galleries.
- Cinemas.
- Theatres and concert halls.
- Places of worship.
- Community centres.
- Crematoriums.
- Libraries and archive services.
- Sport courts, golf courses.
- Playgrounds and public parks.
- Organised indoor activities (up to 30 people).
- Organised outdoor activities (up to 50 people).
- Weddings (ceremony limit set by venue).

- Wedding reception or wake (Limits to be set by venues when social distancing is taken into account, also you should take a lateral flow test on the day of the event).
- Ice skating rinks.
- Adult entertainment venues.
- Sporting events (not open to the spectators).

What you must do at alert level 2

At alert level 2 you must:

- Wear a face covering (unless you have a reasonable excuse not to wear a face covering) in all indoor public places, including when not seated in a pub, café or restaurant.
- Meet no more than 5 other people at a café, restaurant, pub or other public premises (unless with your household of a larger number). This applies to both outdoor and indoor areas of the premises.
- Work from home if you can.
- Self-isolate for 10 days you test positive for COVID-19. If you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive and you are aged 18 or over and not fully vaccinated, you must also self-isolate for 10 days.
- Not take part in an organised event indoors of more than 30 people or outdoors for more than 50 people. All organised events must be organised by a responsible body and have a risk assessment.

At alert level 2 you should:

- Follow guidance on limiting the number of people you meet who you don't live with
- 'Flow before you go'. Take a lateral flow test if you don't have symptoms before going out, especially when meeting others. If it is positive, do not go out and take a PCR test within 24 hours.
- If you meet people other than your household meet them outdoors wherever possible. If meetings indoors make sure it is well ventilated.

Full details here: <https://bit.ly/3FFtCLF>

What is the legal requirement on businesses, workplaces, public places and event organisers?

Regulation 16 of the [Health Protection \(Coronavirus Restrictions\) \(No. 5\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020](#) imposes obligations on people responsible for premises that are open to the public or where work takes place:

- to minimise the risk of exposure to coronavirus on the premises, and
- to minimise the risk of spread of coronavirus by those who have been on the premises.

This is to be achieved by taking the following steps, which are based on the "hierarchy of controls" principles (referred to above):

- step 1: undertake a bespoke assessment of the risk of exposure to coronavirus at their premises (and to consult persons working on the premises or representatives of those persons in doing so)
- step 2: provide information to those entering or working at the premises about how to minimise the risk of exposure to coronavirus. This includes, in particular, information to all those working on the premises about their risk of exposure to coronavirus identified in

the bespoke coronavirus risk assessment and the measures to be taken to minimise this risk

- step 3: ensure that reasonable measures are taken to minimise risk of exposure to the virus on the premises

Each of the 3 steps is required to be taken. Further detail on each step is set out below.

What has changed?

The requirement to carry out a bespoke coronavirus risk assessment and to take reasonable measures has not changed. These requirements remain in place at Alert Level Zero.

There has however been a change to how those required to take reasonable measures determine what reasonable measures they should take, as well as a change in emphasis in what reasonable measures are necessary. The Regulations are now less prescriptive about exactly what measures must be put in place, enabling there to be more flexibility in what is done based on the levels of risk identified.

The specific requirements on licensed and retail premises are no longer set out separately in the Regulations. However, this does not mean those things are no longer considered 'reasonable measures' that may be required, rather that they are not legally required in all circumstances.

For example, table service in a pub has been required at all times. As a result of the change in the law, however, whether table service should be put in place will depend on the circumstances. In a pub that is very rarely busy or during the day where there are few customers present, table service is unlikely to be required as the risk is lower. But table service may well be a reasonable measure that should be taken on a busy evening, or if a pub was holding an event, as the bar area could become crowded.

In so far as the reasonable measures themselves are concerned, there has been a particular emphasis throughout on physical distancing, in particular measures to keep people 2 metres apart. Following the change in the law, physical distancing is still a reasonable measure that may be taken, and in many circumstances is likely to be required to be taken, however it is no longer given particular prominence. This means that where other measures can be taken to minimise risk, such as moving outdoors, requiring people to be tested or vaccinated, using screens etc., physical distancing may not be required or could be required to a lesser extent.

From 11 October 2021, certain venues have been required to put in place measures connected with checking evidence of vaccine or testing status (this will be done by means of the NHSCovid pass) as a mandatory reasonable measure. This guidance has been updated to provide further information to enforcement officers relating to this new requirement of a Covid-pass.

This requirement will be further expanded on 15 November 2021 to include indoor theatres, cinema's and concert halls.

To whom does the legal requirement apply?

The requirement to take reasonable measures applies in a very broad range of circumstances, including every kind of workplace which is open. This includes for example; public services, health and social care premises, schools and childcare settings, higher education, further education settings (including training centres and adult learning), call centres, hospitality businesses, travel and holiday accommodation, voluntary services, commercial and industrial

premises, construction sites and other open sites such as roadworks and outdoor places including livestock markets.

GRANTS IN ENGLAND

Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant **Repeat and Update**

The grant eligibility is largely the same as previous grants to hospitality and leisure businesses. The key features are:

- Businesses with a rateable value of up to £15k will get £2,667
- Businesses with a rateable value above £15k but less than £51k will get £4,000
- Businesses with a rateable value over £51k will get £6,000
- Leisure business are defined as a business that provide opportunities, experiences and facilities, in particular for culture, recreation, entertainment, celebratory events and days and nights out

The list of eligible businesses is as follows and clearly covers self-catering..... see this list.

- Caravan parks
- Caravan sites and pitches Chalet parks
- Coaching inns
- Country house hotels Guest houses
- Hostels
- Hotels
- Lodge
- Holiday apartments, Cottages or bungalows
- Campsites
- Boarding houses
- Canal boats or other vessels
- B&Bs
- Catered holiday homes
- Holiday homes

For full details see: <https://bit.ly/3sX9qBo>

When any more detail emerges about any of the above, we will publish it in the next newsletter and on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd>

Council Tax based Grants **New Update**

The details are emerging for this Grant. There are some important changes, in that the Councils must give all the money out and cannot spend it on themselves.

As before, the amounts are not dictated by Government, so are discretionary, which means a/ that self-catering may or may not be included by each council, and that b/ the amount of grants will inevitably vary from each council.

In short, a postcode lottery.

Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)

The new guidance for the additional £102m ARG funding is also very similar to the previous guidance. This third top-up is being allocated to councils on a per business basis, as per previous tranches. Some of the key features are:

- Unlike previous tranches, councils are not allowed to use this new funding for business support activities so all funding must be given to businesses as grants payments.
- All ARG funding, including this tranche, need to be dispersed by 31 March 2022
- Businesses must self-certify that they meet all eligibility criteria and Local Authorities must verify the evidence provided as part of prepayment checks
- Councils are specifically encouraged to provide funding for hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care, the travel and tourism sector, including group travel, travel agents and tour operators, coach operators, wedding industries, nightclubs, theatres, events industries, wholesalers, English language schools, breweries, freelance and mobile businesses (including caterers, events, hair, beauty and wedding related businesses), gyms, and other businesses that may have not received other grant funding.
- There is no restriction on the number of grants a business may receive, subject to subsidy limits.

Full details here: <https://bit.ly/3Hwl6hs>

When any more detail emerges about any of the above, we will publish it in the next newsletter and on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd>

Covid Recovery grants Repeat

Some information coming through on these grants. They are very different from previous grants and will be extremely hard for most self-caterers to apply for. They are also only for 40% of the value of the proposed project.

They may though be of great interest to agents who missed out badly through the Grant eligibility criteria over the last 18 months.

Here are some of the key criteria and PASC UK Comments:

- **Businesses with a significant operational base and / or employees in (County)**

Significant operational base probably excludes a cosy sleeps 2 in Sidmouth but may not exclude a complex of sixteen cottages outside Keswick.

- **In any format (limited company, sole trader etc) set up for profit and registered to pay tax on profit**

This could be tricky for some..... FHL accounts showing repeated losses would probably exclude applications.

- **Able to demonstrate a significant adverse impact from Covid-19**

This one will be the killer for most I fear. The trading that many actually achieved in 2020 and 2021 was not significantly down on 2019, especially if they received grants, for many they have had their best year ever. If any got insurance (Cottagesure, NFU, Schofields) then they are pretty certain to have had two good years. Only the larger properties may be able to prove that they were seriously affected as they were limited on how many guests they could receive.

- **Able to outline a credible and costed recovery plan**

This requires the business owner to write and cost a credible business recovery plan, which again suggest that it has to show that the business can recover to at least pre-covid levels if not more, and how they would achieve that.

I think therefore it's likely that most self-catering businesses would not be eligible on at least one of the above.

Self-catering agencies though might not be, if they are not home based (that is in the criteria), agents did not get grants, nor the reduction in VAT and very few got business interruption cover etc. They would need to clearly show impact of Covid on revenue and then I think agents would be able to apply. That could be for all sorts of things, with funding up to 40% of total (min council contribution £6000 max council contribution £20,000).

What the grants can be for is covered here:

1. **Capital expenditure is eligible that:**

- · Increases productive capacity i.e. quantity and speed.
- · Increases capability e.g., makes new products or increases the capability to design and prototype new products.
- · Improves product quality.
- · Improves productivity.
- · Reduces unit cost.

Revenue expenditure is eligible that:

- · Makes sense of, exploits or complements capital expenditure.
- · Helps the applicant access new markets.
- · Provides and embeds new skills.
- · Makes it easier to build relationships with customers e.g., via sales processes or customer service.
- · Provides quality assurance.

These are not exhaustive lists and the applicant might buy tangible things e.g., marketing collateral, or intangible e.g. consultancy to help implement (but not scope) a specific part of the recovery plan.

This is comprehensive and probably means that new websites to help reach new markets, or new heating systems, or putting in a quality programme are all possible.

As always with any grant process the normal answer is 'it depends' as there are both eligibility criteria for applying, and eligibility criteria for the project itself and some Councils may not offer this scheme. Grants that require business owners to provide 60% and must go through all the public scrutiny are always way less popular than fully funded projects.

When any more detail emerges about any of the above, we will publish it in the next newsletter and on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd>

Local Hospitality Support Grants Repeat

We have seen some of these which are being offered locally, they are however intended for businesses serving food and beverage. An example below from Somerset...

The Local Hospitality Support Grant scheme, which is offered exclusively by ourselves, aims to support businesses directly impacted by the recent guidance in the run-up to Christmas 2021.

Businesses with a business rates account deriving the majority of their income from serving food and/or drink in-house, may apply to the scheme.

The scheme will open to applications on or soon after 6 January. The scheme will offer between £1,000 to £5,000 depending on the rateable value of the business premises.

We will watch closely and see if there are similar local schemes that self-caterers can apply for.

When any more detail emerges about any of the above, we will publish it in the next newsletter and on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd>

GRANTS IN SCOTLAND

So far, the news in Scotland is not good for self-catering operators who may have been affected by the restrictions, or the threat of them, causing cancellations and any downturn in business levels. No grants are currently available for our sector. The eligibility does exclude self-catering.

The First Minister also gave a breakdown of how £107 million is being allocated to support businesses impacted by the spread of the Omicron variant. The funding, which follows an initial £100 million lifeline package, means the Scottish Government has now allocated £207 million of the £375 million committed to business support. Following discussions with stakeholders, this latest package is targeted at the most affected sectors and payments will start in the new year.

The support package is broken down into:

- £32 million more for hospitality and leisure businesses
- £10 million targeting parts of the hospitality industry most severely affected by requirement for table service
- £5 million targeted support for nightclubs now required to close
- £27 million for culture, due to impact of physical distancing and caps on attendance
- £17 million for events, due to impact of physical distancing and caps on attendance
- £16 million for existing public transport Covid support schemes to recognise impact on fare revenue

Final details of the funding available for each sector is being determined in discussion with business and sector organisations and will be published as soon as possible.

Hospitality businesses will be contacted by their local authority to access top up funding through the December and January Business Top Up. **Self-catering and B&B providers are not eligible for this Top Up.**

When any more detail emerges about any of the above, we will publish it in the next newsletter and on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd>

GRANTS IN WALES

Three Grant Schemes in Wales and more details are emerging. Everything we have currently is detailed below. Watch for further announcements on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd>

1/ The Covid-19 Economic Resilience Fund (ERF)

More details are now available. Essentially to claim, businesses will need to show that they have been materially affected between 13 December and 14 February. If not closed by restrictions, then the impact must be greater than 60% on turnover in this period as compared to the same period in December 2019 and February 2020.

Welsh Government statement below

The Economic Resilience Fund (ERF) is targeted at businesses in the hospitality, leisure and attraction sectors and their supply chains who have been material impacted by a greater than 60% reduction of turnover between 13 December 2021 and 14 February 2022.

The funds seeks to complement other COVID-19 response measures to support businesses, social enterprises and charitable organisations in Wales.

The ERF will support:

- Businesses impacted between 13 December 2021 and 14 February 2022 and closed by regulations from 26 December 2021.
- Event Space and attractions materially impacted between 13 December 2021 and 14 February 2022.
- Other businesses with greater than 60% impact on turnover between 13 December 2021 and 14 February 2022.

And (applies to all):

- Have experienced a materially impact through reduced turnover of 60% or more between December 2021 and February 2022 as compared to December 2019 and February 2020.

You can use the eligibility checker tool to check your eligibility for this further package of support.

The Eligibility Checker is here: <https://bit.ly/3q47TpX>

To read the Guidance Notes and FAQs visit: <https://bit.ly/3JIIUBS>

This includes a good Q&A on how the eligibility works and how much you might get if affected.

2/ £120m financial support for businesses that pay Business Rates in Wales impacted by Omicron

Details here: <https://bit.ly/3pBHS2p>

Under the latest package, retail, hospitality, leisure and tourism business who pay Non-Domestic Rates will be entitled to a payment of £2,000, £4,000 or £6,000 depending on their rateable value. Businesses will need to re-register their details, through a quick and easy online process, with their local authority in order to receive their payments.

Registration will open via local authority websites from the week commencing 10 January.

3/ Support Scheme for Businesses on Council Tax or Sole Traders

Local Authorities will also administer a Discretionary fund for business and sole traders who do not pay rates. The fund will provide £500 to sole trader and freelancers and £2,000 to employing businesses in impacted sectors. Further details to follow on Business Wales.

An eligibility checker which will help businesses to gauge how much they can expect to receive under the new support package will be available on Business Wales by the start of 2022.

It will be here when ready: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/>

When any more detail emerges about any of the above, we will publish it in the next newsletter and on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/pascukltd>

WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON PLANNING LEGISLATION FOR HOLIDAY LETS

The Welsh Government have another consultation running which may affect Members in Wales. This is called the ‘Planning Legislation and Policy for Second Homes and Holiday Lets’.

Full details can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3JKNbEG>

All responses need to be submitted by 22 February 2022. PAS UK will be providing some notes and their own submission in advance of this deadline to aid Members making their own submissions.

Here is the Consultation Document: <https://bit.ly/3F8Z2cx>

This is the scope of the Consultation, and as you can see will have far-reaching impacts on the self-catering sector in Wales:

This consultation seeks your views on the Welsh Government’s proposals to amend the development management system and planning policy in Wales to help local planning authorities manage Second Homes and Short-term Holiday Lets in three ways:

Firstly, we propose to amend the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 to create new use classes for Primary Homes, Secondary Homes and Short-term Holiday Lets.

Secondly, we propose to make related amendments to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to allow permitted changes between the new use classes for Primary Homes, Secondary Homes and Short-term Holiday Lets.

Thirdly, we propose amendments to Planning Policy Wales (PPW) to make it explicit that, where relevant, the prevalence of second homes and short-term holiday lets in a local

area must be taken into account when considering the housing requirements and policy approaches in Local Development Plans (LDPs).

Please do let us have your feedback and questions on this Consultation, we will provide more updates on this as we approach the deadline of 22 February, plus the notes and the PASC UK submission.

Feedback and questions to chair@pascuk.co.uk

WELSH GOVERNMENT CALL FOR ACCOMMODATION FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

The Welsh Government are making an urgent appeal for holiday accommodation providers to help by making accommodation available for vulnerable people.

Welsh Government guidance remains unchanged; everyone should have accommodation which enables them to follow public health guidance on social distancing, hygiene and to self-isolate if necessary. However, we know that housing services are under severe pressure. In some areas, emergency accommodation is already at capacity and pressures are continuing.

We are therefore asking accommodation businesses across Wales whether they can assist Local Authorities in providing high quality emergency provision.

Further funding is available to support Local Authorities to secure this vital accommodation and to provide the requisite support staff to ensure these people receive the appropriate wrap around support to address their needs. If supporting this work businesses will enter either a short- or longer-term contract with their Local Authority for the direct costs involved.

If you can help, please contact your Local Authority (LA) where we have provided a contact name and email address. Please provide details of the accommodation, which you could offer to house vulnerable people. We will require details of the number of rooms or units, type, location and how long you anticipate it will be available for.

Please provide a named contact in your business and a contact address email and telephone number.

We require assistance in the following areas and have provided the LA contact email in these areas for you to contact them direct.

- Blaenau Gwent - David.croft@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk or Mark.Congreve@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
- Bridgend - Ryan.Jones@bridgend.gov.uk
- Cardiff - LBassett@cardiff.gov.uk
- Carmarthenshire
- AnBowen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk or RParkinson@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
- Caerphilly - Harribt@caerphilly.gov.uk or Claphl@caerphilly.gov.uk
- Ceredigion - Sarah.LWilliams@ceredigion.gov.uk or Llyr.Hughes2@ceredigion.gov.uk
- Conwy - housingsolutions@conwy.gov.uk
- Denbighshire - nigel.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk or Sian.E.Jones@denbighshire.gov.uk
- Flintshire - Martin.Cooil@flintshire.gov.uk or deborah.kenyon@flintshire.gov.uk
- Gwynedd - sianjones@gwynedd.llyw.cymru
- Merthyr - Hayley.Williams@merthyr.gov.uk
- Monmouthshire - IanBakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk
- Neath Port Talbot - e.obrien@npt.gov.uk
- Newport - Natalie.Thompson@newport.gov.uk

- Pembrokeshire - housing@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
- Powys - Rob.powell@powys.gov.uk
- Rhondda Cynon Taff - Gareth.k.gaspar@rctcbc.gov.uk
- Swansea - Marie.muldoon@swansea.gov.uk
- Torfaen - Lesley.Groves@torfaen.gov.uk
- Wrexham - Tracy.Hague@wrexham.gov.uk
- Ynys Mon – Housing@ynysmon.gov.uk

Thank you again to those businesses that have provided us with support previously - we hope to secure the help of this industry once again for this important initiative.

WHAT TO DO IF A GUEST GETS COVID AT YOUR PROPERTY? REPEAT

There are some key points here to enable full understanding of what we need to do and why.

1/ There is (unbelievably in our view) no requirement for the guest to notify us if they do test positive for Covid whilst staying with you.

2/ You do not need to tell guests that come subsequently that a guest tested positive for Covid. This has more logic as we should have carried out the Covid Cleaning Protocols which protect, as far as is proportionate, subsequent guests.

3/ We do have to have a Covid Risk Assessment by law. This has been covered in many PASC UK Newsletters.

We have seen on hospitality forums lots of incorrect information about what steps we need to take. The most common is still to leave three days between bookings. This has not been necessary since we reopened in July 2020 if cleaning protocols are followed.

The key steps that we must take if we find out that someone has had Covid in the premises are as follows:

- The guest(s) should return home as soon as possible to get back to their NHS support area.
- This does not imply that they should get a refund. If they broke a leg, they probably would not even ask. We are not the insurance policy of last resort for every occurrence. Guests should consider Covid cover in their holiday insurance, it is a known risk. (You must be clear on this, in your communications and booking terms. If you are taking bookings through third parties their booking terms will apply).
- Either the owners or cleaning team should put on PPE and enter the building and open as many windows as soon as practical for as long as possible. Every piece of data suggests that ventilation is the key.
- After ventilation, and either before or on the changeover day, normal Covid cleaning should take place as per the updated Cleaning Protocols (see below).

NEW REVISED CLEANING PROTOCOLS V5

All three Country specific versions are available under the Covid-19 Tab on the new website. England, Scotland and Wales are covered.

Between the old website and the new website over 12,000 copies of the updated version have already been downloaded, taking the total to more than 135,000.

It is a positive review with sensible changes and written in any easy-to-understand way. We strongly recommend that they are read in their entirety, so that the whole context and the necessity to write an updated risk assessment is fully understood.

We are providing a single document for **Self-Catering Covid Cleaning Protocols V5** in each of England, Scotland and Wales.

This includes

- The Cleaning Protocols
- The Risk Assessment
- Cleaning checklist
- FAQ's

As always with the Cleaning Protocols, these are free to all. Earlier versions have been downloaded from the PASC UK website over 120,000 times and have done much to convince Government of the sectors commitment to Covid security.

Some key changes:

- Owners should follow current Government guidance on issues such as physical distancing and face coverings
- Properties that have been cleaned and disinfected in line with the protocols should be available for immediate occupation, and there is no requirement for leaving properties fallow for 72 hours
- Individual operators should decide on whether guests should strip the beds / laundry themselves. If operators/cleaners remove them (following protocols on good handling of linen, not shaking, PPE if required), then it could be argued that this may actually be more “controllable”
- A common-sense approach should be taken to the washing of crockery/cutlery, based on what cleaners find when assessing property at changeover
- PHS does not recommend Steam/UV-C light/ULV fogging between guests as standard practice
- And much more....

The Protocols can be found on www.pascuk.co.uk

MEMBER BENEFITS SUMMARISED

To carry out the lobbying work that we do on behalf of the Sector we need funding. 90% plus of this funding comes from Membership Subscriptions.

Members will get.

- Access to Telephone Support
- Prompt email support
- Access to Members Benefits and Discounts. (Buying Group Membership details below)
- Members only Webinars, (Including ask the Chair sessions)
- Book Surgery Appointments with the Chair

- Specific Discounts on key products
- PASC UK Guides to reducing Business Rates
- Hard Copy of the Visit England Pink Book
- Special Interest Papers (EV Charging, Third Party Services at Holiday Lets, Privacy and Cookie Policies etc)

What will be available to non-members?

- The PASC UK Covid newsletters
- Email support when available. (Members support comes first).
- Free Webinars
- Cleaning protocols
- Some General interest Papers, (Cancellation Policies, what to do if Guests gets Covid etc)

We are currently making major investments in supporting you better and all this cost's money, these include.

- A new Website
- The largest ever National Report on Self-Catering in the UK, broken down by country
- Sponsorship of the Visit England Pink book, to help promote the safe and legal aspects of our sector
- Membership fees to the Tourism Alliance, UK Hospitality and Wales Tourism Alliance
- Surveys and reports to use data-based arguments to win support for the sector

If you have not yet joined PASC UK, please consider joining NOW. Details below the Buying Club information. <https://bit.ly/3ptd4RU> Thanks.

BUYING CLUB MEMBER BENEFIT FOR PAID PASC UK MEMBERS

We are really pleased to announce a partnership with Purchasing for Business.

More details on the new PASC UK website here: <https://bit.ly/3ptd4RU>

This is a Buying Club, it's free to join if you are a paid up PASC UK Member. There will be no additional fee for Members to join the Club.

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 don't ask very often, 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 and proper PR firms to assist with campaigns. Memberships to other organisations that provide common lobbying, information feeds and support also cost many thousands of pounds a year.

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, Trade Membership is £200, and you will get a listing in the Trade Directory on the new website.

Members get telephone support and priority email support.

You can join here, simple form, takes 2 mins, and you'll get an invoice, payable by BACS or Credit Card.

Just click on this link to go to the joining page: <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/join-us/>

Thank you

RECORDINGS OF PASC UK WEBINARS

These can now all be found on the new website at: <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/webinars/>

HOW TO REDUCE YOUR BUSINESS RATES BILL

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.

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.

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.

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.

ABOUT PASC UK

Full details of all the activities that PASC UK undertakes can be found on the new website, under the About Tab on the homepage. www.pascuk.co.uk

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.

