



# Professional Association of Self-Caterers UK

## COVID NEWSLETTER

### 4 February 2022 Issue 95

#### This week's contents

- PASC UK Social Media
- Where to find previously covered items in Newsletters
- Commentary
- PASC UK is Recruiting
- Reducing your Commercial Energy and Utility bills Webinar Tuesday 11 Feb
- Ask the Chair anything Members zoom **Postponed**
- Self-Catering Agency Members Zoom Meeting
- Recording of PASC UK Buying Club Webinar
- Possibility of EV Charging Grants
- Check your Photographs to avoid unnecessary costs
- Reporting Taxable Grants
- Insurance Update **with more options and info 4 Feb**
- Collective action against NFU for covid Claims
- Wales Working Group on Consultations **feedback needed**
- Mental Health Support
- Specialist Holiday Let Mortgages
- Hot Tub Ambulance Chaser Claims

#### General Information Section

- What happens if a guest gets Covid at your property? **Repeat**
- New Revised Cleaning Protocols V5
- New PASC UK Website **Live**
- Member Benefits summarised
- Buying Club, Member Benefit for paid up PASC UK Members
- Support Lobbying by Joining PASC UK
- Recordings of PASC UK Webinars
- How to Reduce your Business Rates Bill
- PASC UK Members logo
- Member Renewals
- About PASC UK
- 2021 New Index
- INDEX OF PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER CONTENT **Can be found on Newsletter 17 Dec**
- Disclaimer

## 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 2022 news items are now indexed at the bottom of the 17 December newsletter and can be downloaded from [www.pascuk.co.uk](http://www.pascuk.co.uk)

## COMMENTARY

With Covid Restrictions for our sector gone, we are all facing the next huge challenge, the spectre of hugely rising costs. Previous newsletters have covered rises in energy, insurance and wages.

This week's headlines of non-commercial energy rising by 54% is an indication of the fragility of energy supply. <https://bbc.in/3HrjruZ>

Many PASC UK Members have already locked their commercial energy prices through the PASC UK Buying Club, Higher Wiscombe has for three years, and we are having a Webinar on Tuesday 11 Feb at 1100 on how this might work for you. Details below.

We are now also only a few weeks away for VAT rising to 20% for Members that are VAT rated, so pressure is building across the whole hospitality sector. All indications are that demand is still strong, particularly for the summer season, and that it would be unwise to start reducing pricing at this time. That's a race to the bottom with rising prices. Foreign holidays are going to cost more too.

We are looking to add to the PASC UK team, currently there is just one and a half of us, and we have put some headlines about the role below, we can split the role if this helps, we have some great applicants already, but if you know of anyone, please get them to contact us asap.

We changed email servers last weekend, not recommended unless critical, and we do have some catching up to do over the coming days. If you have an outstanding email beyond next Monday afternoon, please resend. Thanks.

We still need input, feedback and information about the following:

- The three Consultations in Wales that affect self-catering. (See below)

If any of you have managed to secure any kind of energy related grants for your business (not home). (See below)

Any information on these gratefully received, send to [chair@pascuk.co.uk](mailto:chair@pascuk.co.uk)

As always, we wish you all safe and successful trading over the coming months.

Best regards Alistair

## PASC UK IS RECRUITING

We are still looking to add to the team at PASC UK. Ideally this will need to be someone within range of the office here in East Devon, for training and logistical reasons. This would though primarily be a home-based position.

We desperately need the Business/Membership Support role to be filled, to enable the Chair to spend more time lobbying and developing further member benefits. We may be able to split the role to suit candidates.

Starting with a three-month trial and 20 hours per week.

Key technical strengths required are:

- Knowledge of Outlook, Word, Excel, MS Teams/Zoom and editing websites hosted on Wix
- knowledge of using Xero or ability to learn quickly essential
- Knowledge of Photoshop useful but not essential
- Knowledge of Facebook, Twitter and Blogs
- Other programmes as they become relevant

Training and equipment will be provided and remuneration for the right candidate will be in the region of £15 per hour.

Full role specification here: <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/vacancies/>

If you know of anyone that might be interested, then please let us know by emailing [chair@pascuk.co.uk](mailto:chair@pascuk.co.uk) Thanks.

## **REDUCING YOUR COMMERCIAL ENERGY & UTILITY BILLS WEBINAR**

### **Webinar 2022 #2**

#### **Reducing your energy bills if you are on a commercial tariff**

Date: Tuesday 8 February 2022

Time: 1100-1215

Link to book: <https://bit.ly/3KrWoSS>

This will be held in conjunction with the PASC UK buying group. Self-caterers are currently seeing their energy bills rising exponentially, some by over 50%. This webinar will introduce the service available from the PASC UK Buying Club that can help you reduce, or lock into lower rates. It's possible to also cover Water bills in England and Scotland, (not Wales as Water is not deregulated there)

The Buying Group has already saved many Members substantial sums on these bills. Gurvinder Patara from the Buying Club will cover how they do this, and what they need from individual Members to achieve these savings. Case studies will be presented too.

This Webinar is open to all, so that all can see the benefits of joining.

The Webinar will be recorded and available for viewing from the PASC UK Website shortly after broadcast.

**ASK THE CHAIR ANYTHING MEMBERS ZOOM MEETING Postponed**

We are going try something new for 2022, hosting private Members only 'ask the Chair anything' zoom meetings. Unfortunately, we cannot now do this on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February so will have to postpone. A new date later in February will be announced shortly.

## **SELF-CATERING AGENCY MEMBERS ZOOM MEETING**

During next week PASC UK Members will be invited via email to a private zoom meeting to discuss the various Government interventions in the sector.

These Include Statutory Registration, the new rules on how many days let owners must meet to comply with the forthcoming Business Rates Rules in England, and how that might be checked and implemented as well as the threats of additional taxes and regulation in Wales.

If you are a self-catering agent, and do not want to miss this, please send an email to [chair@pascuk.co.uk](mailto:chair@pascuk.co.uk)

## **RECORDING OF THE PASC UK BUYING CLUB WEBINAR**

### **Webinar 2022 #1**

#### **Introduction to the PASC UK Buying Group**

Date: Tuesday 1 Feb 2022

Time: 1100-1215

Link to view recording: <https://bit.ly/35C9s8b>

The PASC UK Buying Club has been a great success, with over 500 Members enjoying a huge range of benefits. The Buying Club is effectively collective buying power, whereby together we can get better deals than we can on our own. The PASC UK Buying Club does not cost anything to join if you are a paid-up PASC UK Member. Key offers were presented, plus a Q&A session at the end.

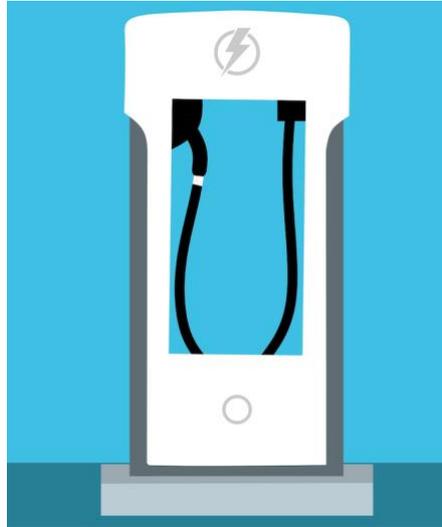
The list of discounts is growing all the time, examples here: <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/buying-club/>

## **POSSIBILITY OF EV CHARGING STATION GRANTS**

As part of the work going into the updated EV Charging Paper, we should first thank Members for the huge amount of information that you have sent in. We need to sort and collate all of this and hope to have it available as an updated report in a couple of weeks.

We are in conversations with OLEV about the details of possible grants coming in that may be applicable for businesses such as self-catering operations. The timescale is post July, and it also looks like that all installations from July on will need to be smart chargers, so not just a free to use. As with all Grants, the devil is in the detail and in many cases the cost of supply and installation rises when Grants are available.

We should have more information for next week's newsletter.



## CHECK YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS TO AVOID UNNECESSARY COSTS

We have been contacted this week by Members who have fallen foul of a company called PicRights. <https://bit.ly/3shSFyR>

We have covered this before in the newsletter, but essentially there are companies that trawl the internet to see if images are being used without consent. We also covered how you could do this to see if your property was being 'Ghosted'. If these agents find that we are using a photo that we do not have the rights to use, probably done by some auto searching bot, they send a threatening letter.

The law is straightforward, no one can use someone's else's photo without consent. These claims can normally be resolved pretty quickly, sometimes by settling with the claimant, but if the amount of money claimed exceeds £1000, then best to go to a solicitor experienced in this, as settlements, even when pushed, rarely get to anything like that. The PASC UK Solicitor is well versed in dealing with these claims quickly and efficiently.

### What to do now?

Check your website for any images that you do not have rights to and hide/remove until such permission is gained. There are various rights free image websites on the internet. Always check the terms. PASC UK has used images from <https://pxhere.com> in the newsletters, on the website and on Facebook. There are many others.

## REPORTING TAXABLE GRANTS

Probably one of the most common questions, and one that cause much contention, is whether the Governments support Grants are to be regarded as income, and therefore if you make a profit in the year received, are taxable. They are and HMRC has produced a video to assist with understanding how to deal with this and report any taxable grants that they have received through the pandemic on their Company Tax Return. The first minute tells you which Grants and payments are to be regarded as taxable income.

You can view the video here: <https://bit.ly/3gnLYpA>

## INSURANCE UPDATE WITH MORE OPTIONS

## (ALWAYS A WORK IN PROGRESS)

We continue to receive a huge number of calls/emails about self-catering insurance policies. Most report huge rises in pricing and some saying cover no longer offered. We have updated the Lycett's notes below having had a conversation with them and their bespoke offer looks good.

The good news is that the Cottagesure Policy will be going live again, initially for renewals only from Friday 11 February. There are some changes in the cover, now underwritten by HCC International Insurance.

There are some changes, there are two subset policies; Single Let and Cottage Complex. There are changes to cover as well, no equipment breakdown cover is provided, nor commercial legal expenses, and not unexpectedly no communicable disease cover.

We will do a comparison of cover changes on this important policy which around half of PASC UK Members had during the pandemic.

Below is a list of primary offers in the sector, with updates as we have them. We have also added a list of players in the market that we don't have direct experience of, to try and give you more options as you shop around for cover.

Every indication is that self-catering insurance premiums are set to rise substantially this year, so worth shopping around.

If you have any good experiences or new providers let us know, and if you have experienced the opposite let us know. Please email [chair@pascuk.co.uk](mailto:chair@pascuk.co.uk) and we will update the list below accordingly. Thanks.

Reminder....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.

Just a few examples of issues here to double check with any provider quoting you, these have come up repeatedly as a reason for no actual cover. If you have things like games tooms, animal petting, anything that the insurer may find unusual, it really is best to ask up front. Could save a huge amount of time.

- Some say no single person use of hot tubs or swimming pool (How on earth could we police that?)
- Some say no Thatched, or adjoining properties
- Some say no streams or ponds on property

So please check for exclusions. No point in paying for a policy that would never pay out.

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 initially refused Covid cover. They lost at the Supreme Court in January 2021, so most claims settled. RSA one of the first to agree not to deduct grants from pay-outs.

**UPDATE...** See note above, Cottagesure Policy back for renewals from 11 Feb. Review of new cover to follow.

<https://cottagesure.co.uk>

## Lycett's

Lycett's Insurance Brokers (and Financial Services) are an insurance broker with 16 offices around the country, mostly in rural locations, and have a wealth of experience in placing leisure risks including self-catering holiday properties, often with their own leisure facilities. Each individual risk is underwritten on its merits with no broad-brush approach to a sector or type of risk.

Probably more well known in the Rural, Agricultural and Equine arenas but have a growing Commercial team also and retain ownership of any claims via their in-house claims team at their Head Office in Newcastle.

Lastly, Lycett's are ultimately owned by a charity (Allchurches Trust) so any profits they make are distributed to charity & community groups in the UK & Ireland.

Contact: Lee Musgrove [Lee.Musgrove@Lycetts.co.uk](mailto:Lee.Musgrove@Lycetts.co.uk)

<https://www.lycetts.co.uk/insurance-services/rural/estate/holiday-cottages/>

## 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 Update

NFU Mutual normally have a really good reputation amongst policyholders. They have though had a challenging Covid. **(See note repeated below about joint action against NFU for failure to pay out under Business Interruption)**. 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 reversed this policy. Their Cancellation Advance Bookings add-on is a really good add on and we are trying to get others to offer similar.

Check Pool and Hot tub cover particularly with these policies as we have heard cases of them not allowing solo use.

<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>

These four I have heard of but have not listed before as I don't have any Member recommendations on them at this time.

### **Towergate Insurance**

These also have a Glamping policy....

<https://www.towergateinsurance.co.uk/home-and-property/holiday-home-insurance>

### **J L Morris**

Various policies on offer, but not clear if do or don't do complexes.

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

### **Magenta Insurance**

Looks like suitable for single cottages rather than complexes and only up to a value of 1.5 million property value.

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

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

## **COLLECTIVE ACTION AGAINST NFU FOR COVIDS CLAIMS REPEAT**

An interesting development has come to our attention this week from a Member in that there is notice of an intended action against the NFU for not paying out under Covid Business Interruption Insurance. Regular readers of this Newsletter may remember that those on the cheaper NFU Home and Lifestyle Policy were able to claim from NFU, but those on their more expensive policy were not.

We do not have details of the basis of the claim but interested NFU policy holders may want to contact Penningtons Manches Cooper, based in London, to see what the basis of the claim is and whether they should consider joining.

<https://www.penningtonslaw.com>

If any Members get positive or negative feedback on this, can they let us know?  
[chair@pascuk.co.uk](mailto:chair@pascuk.co.uk)

## **EXAMPLE OF CORONAVIRUS TRAVEL INSURANCE REPEAT**

**Repeating this section as have had lots of requests for information on this and there was a typo previously, we CANNOT recommend any policies, merely signpost.**

We found this policy on social media, that claims to offer Covid travel cover. It's from [goodtogoinsurance.com](https://bit.ly/3qpm9eE). You can find out more here: <https://bit.ly/3qpm9eE>

- Their Covid+ policies cover cancellation if guests' contract Covid-19 within 14 days of departure.
- Their Platinum Covid+ policies have more cover including cancellation if guests have been told to self-isolate due to Covid-19.

We spoke to them briefly to get some headline information:

- Yes, it does cover holidays in the UK
- You can take out family cover
- You can take out group cover up to ten individuals on one policy.

Remember as business we CANNOT recommend any policies, but we can signpost and say for example, 'we cannot recommend insurance policies, examples might be, <https://www.goodtogoinsurance.com> or <https://www.postoffice.co.uk/travel-insurance> and more options might be available by searching the insurance comparison websites

PASC UK is not recommending or endorsing any of these policies.

## **WALES WORKING GROUP REPEAT AND REQUEST FOR INPUT**

**The Wales Working Groups meets on the 8<sup>th</sup> February to coordinate responses to these Consultations please send your thoughts and comments in so that they can be part of the considerations. Thanks. Send to [chair@pascuk.co.uk](mailto:chair@pascuk.co.uk)**

There are three consultations underway that affect Members in Wales. They are listed below. We have established a working group with the Wales Tourism Alliance to try and coordinate a single unified response to each of these. The danger is having separate groups giving conflicting feedback to these consultations, which can mean that Govt ignores them all.

The notes on these will be published so that Members can see the position that we are taking, and hopefully can also feed into the Consultations on similar lines.

Please provide your comments and inputs on these Consultations to us so that we can include them in our discussions. Please send to [chair@pascuk.co.uk](mailto:chair@pascuk.co.uk)

A reminder of the Consultations:

### **1<sup>st</sup> Consultation: 'Local Taxes for second homes and self-catering accommodation'**

<https://gov.wales/local-taxes-second-homes-and-self-catering-accommodation>

Whilst this Consultation is technically closed (on 17 November 2021), the review is still ongoing and that is being fed into.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Consultation: Planning legislation and policy for second homes and short-term holiday lets:**

This is the most urgent one as the Consultation period ends on 22 February.

<https://gov.wales/planning-legislation-and-policy-second-homes-and-short-term-holiday-lets>

Some notes on this....

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (the GPDO) permits certain **specified changes of use between the specified use classes**. Under current planning legislation, planning permission may be required for a change of use of a dwelling house to use as a short-term holiday let. There is no published definition of what constitutes a

material change of use from primary or secondary home to a short-term holiday let. Whether a material change of use has occurred, and planning permission is therefore required, is a matter of fact and degree for the relevant planning authority to consider on a case-by-case basis. **Considerations** that may be material include increased occupancy of the property, frequency of changes of occupants, impact on local amenity and on direct neighbours and local housing need.

**Welsh Government's proposals** to amend the development management system and planning policy in Wales in three ways:

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'; They would amend Part C of Schedule 1 to the Use Classes Order by: · Amending the existing use class C3 (Dwelling houses) to apply where a dwelling house is in use as a sole or main residence for a prescribed period (i.e. Primary Homes); · Introducing use class C5 (Secondary Homes); · Introducing use class C6 (Short-term Holiday Lets).

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. These permitted development rights can be disapplied within a specific area by an Article 4 Direction made by a local planning authority.

Make related 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 (LDP). Plus, it makes clear where the local planning authority imposes an Article 4 Direction, a condition could be placed on all new dwellings restricting their use to primary residential where such conditions would meet the relevant tests.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Consultation: Local variation to land transaction tax rates for second homes, short term holiday lets and potentially other residential properties - closes 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

We have a little more time on this one.

<https://gov.wales/second-homes-local-variation-to-land-transaction-tax-rates-html>

This is what was called Stamp duty up to April 2018. £180K – £250k – 3.5%; 5% above £250k. Property above £40k attracts Land Transaction Tax (LTT) – Welsh Revenue Authority. The proposal is to delegate Powers to Local Authorities (LA) to vary LTT in LA or specific ward areas.

## **MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

ACAS is launching a new campaign this week to support small businesses and organisations with mental health and wellbeing in the workplace. This is very welcome as almost 50% of respondents in a PASC UK Survey last year admitted they had been affected.

The guidance for businesses themselves is on the following link: [www.acas.org.uk/supporting-mental-health-workplace](http://www.acas.org.uk/supporting-mental-health-workplace)

## **SPECIALIST HOLIDAY LET MORTGAGES**

We get more than a few requests for help in directing Members to a Mortgage Broker who can help with holiday let mortgages. Particularly ones that may appear complex on the surface. We have known House and Holiday Home Mortgages since pre PASC UK days and they have a really good track record. They're based in the Cotswolds but help customers all over the UK. They try to make what can be a very complex, difficult subject as simple as possible for our clients as they look to provide you with the right mortgage.

Contact:

[hello@hhhmortgages.com](mailto:hello@hhhmortgages.com)

01453 887179

## HOT TUB AMBULANCE CHASER CLAIMS

What a world we live in? There is now a specialist No Win-No Fee insurance company dealing with claims against hot tub owners.

See here: <https://bit.ly/32VS8dl>

The best way to offset any such risk is to follow the recognised procedures for operating and recording of the hot tub management, plus a full risk assessment. Correct procedures, well-maintained equipment and complete records are your best defence against claims.

## 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 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.pascuk.co.uk)

## NEW 2021 INDEX

2021 New Items and which Newsletter they can be found here: <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/covid19-newsletters/>

- **Hosting Tourism and Hospitality APPG**
- **EV Charging option for Members**
- **Water Charges in England and Scotland**
- **EV Charging, call for information, feedback needed**
- **Energy Grants, call for information, feedback needed**
- 
- 
- **Scottish Licensing Legislation passed 21 Jan Newsletter**
- **Update on New Threshold for Business Rates Switch, further information 21 Jan Newsletter**
- **Grants update England 21 Jan Newsletter**
- **Grants update Scotland 21 Jan Newsletter**
- **Grants update Wales 21 Jan Newsletter**
- **Restrictions lifting in England 21 Jan Newsletter**
- **Restrictions lifting in Scotland 21 Jan Newsletter**
- **Restrictions Lifting in Wales 21 Jan Newsletter**
- **New Threshold for Business Rates Switch 14 Jan Newsletter**
- **Update. Insurance Companies in the Self-Catering Sector 14 Jan Newsletter**
- **Business Rates Reminder for England 14 Jan Newsletter**
- **Swimming Pool Safety Toolkit 14 Jan Newsletter**
- **Self-Employment Income Support Guidance Updated 14 Jan Newsletter**
- **PASC UK 2022 Business Awards 14 Jan Newsletter**
- **Real Data on booking performance Q4 2021 and forward bookings 14 Jan Newsletter**
- **Example of Coronavirus Travel Insurance 14 Jan Newsletter**
- **Visit England 'Good To Go' Scheme updated 14 Jan Newsletter**
- **Be Positive with Pricing 14 Jan Newsletter**
- **Update on Covid Restrictions in England, Scotland and Wales 7 Jan Newsletter**
- **Update on Grants in England, Scotland and Wales 7 Jan Newsletter**
- **Welsh Government Consultation on Planning Legislation for Holiday Lets 7 Jan Newsletter**
- **Welsh Government call for accommodation for vulnerable groups 7 Jan Newsletter**

## INDEX OF PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER CONTENT

Can be found on Newsletter 17 Dec here: <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/covid19-newsletters/>

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](http://www.pascuk.co.uk)  
[chair@pascuk.co.uk](mailto: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.