



Professional Association of Self-Caterers UK

PASC UK NEWSLETTER

25 March 2022 Issue 102

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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 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

COMMENTARY

There will only be a short newsletter this week as we are on holiday. We look forward to resuming normal service on Friday 1st April. Today's update is mainly as to what is happening in Wales, and a comment on the Spring statement. All the information we have published can be found by looking at the index at the bottom and then referring to relevant newsletter on the website.

Many thanks Alistair

HOLIDAY AT PASC UK

Lorna and I are on holiday until Thursday 31st March. There will be an out of office on our emails during this time. We will respond to all emails and voice mails as soon as we can on return.

If you have a dire emergency, please send an email to chair@pascuk.co.uk with EMERGENCY in the subject line and we will respond to those as quickly as possible. Please only use this for real time critical emergencies.

SPRING STATEMENT

The Chancellors Statement this week brought little cheer to the self-catering sector. We will trawl through all the microscopic details that accompanies such an announcement and let you know if there is anything that you should look out for or take advantage of in the next couple of weeks.

In short, the pickings will be very slim, and above all the lack of an extension to the reduced VAT rate is a huge disappointment to the whole hospitality sector. We had been hopeful for at least an extension amongst the mass of additional costs we are all facing.

For those affected by this, I am sorry that we were unable to persuade Treasury of the merits of any extension.

DEADLINE FOR WALES CONSULTATION INTO VARYING LAND TRANSACTION RATES

Monday the 28th of March is the deadline to respond to this Consultation:

Second homes: local variation to land transaction tax rates.

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

This is the Consultation that we have covered previously in these newsletters and that the working group and Wales Tourism Alliance decided was not threatening enough to put too much emphasis behind it. We have been assured by the Welsh Government that the measures would not be retrospective, and that was the major concern.

We will prepare over the weekend a response, which will be published on the PASC UK website for those that want notes in order to help respond to this Consultation.

We are sorry about the late notice, but we have been concentrating on the far more damaging 182 day threshold, update below, and have to choose the battles that we fight.

We will send out a reminder on this to the Wales database at PASC UK on Monday. If you do not think you are on it, send an email to chair@pascuk.co.uk with Wales Database in the subject line and you will be added.

UPDATE ON LOBBYING IN WALES.

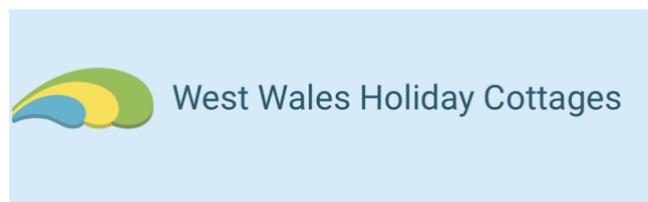
Fund-raising for lobbying in Wales

We start with some very good news. The following five organisations have all contributed to a fighting fund to focus on the two main threats to self-catering in Wales, the 182-day threshold and the threatened tourism tax.

Between us we have committed to funding 26 days of additional lobbying research time between now and the end of June. This lobbying money is being channelled through the Wales Tourism Alliance (WTA) for transparency and is ring-fenced to spend on these two main threats.

We would like to thank these organisations for the speedy response to our request for support. This is another really good example of the sector working together. Thank you.

If any other organisations or businesses would like to contribute to this fund, please let me know, for simplicity it needs to be in £250 units, let me know by emailing me at chair@pascuk.co.uk and put Lobbying Contribution in the subject line. Those that contribute will be thanked in the Newsletter and on social media.



The agencies can be contacted via their websites:

www.sts-holidays.co.uk

www.westwalesholidaycottages.co.uk

www.classic.co.uk

www.travelchapter.com

Survey into impact of 182-day threshold closes at midnight on Monday 28 March

The second piece of good news has been how many responses we have had the survey into how your business would be affected by the 182-day threshold. We have nagged and nagged,

contacted all that we can in order to try to get a significant number of responses. Previously surveys have always got less than 200 responses in Wales, about the same amount as we have paid Members, but this time we really have got the message out there.

As we type this newsletter on Friday morning, we have a total of 1151 responses!!

A huge thanks to everyone and please if you have not yet filled it in, please do, this really will provide us with evidence to lobby on your behalf.

Last call is midnight Monday 28th March, let's see if we can top 1200?

Survey Link here: <https://bit.ly/37oDCwL>

More data coming in to support lobbying from SuperControl



Huge thanks to SuperControl who have pulled out all the stops to give us good quality booking data on Welsh properties. This includes a break down by unit size, by County by how many nights let. This only came in late yesterday, so not quite ready to publish, but this will be another vital piece of hard evidence about actual bookings in Wales, and just how very few properties make the 182-day threshold proposed.

The Five Point Plan for Welsh Lobbying

This plan is available on the PASC UK website and explains the steps that each owner can take to help lobby the Welsh Government. We will be updating this document as we gather evidence and may add further steps as we move towards the April 12 Deadline for this consultation.

It can be found here: <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/reports/>

Summary Position in Wales

As you can see above, we are both gathering the hard data necessary to lobby the Welsh Government as well as getting increased funds to support this advocacy and lobbying.

We will, in conjunction with the Wales Tourism Alliance and UK Hospitality Wales, prepare Guidance Notes on how to fill in the Consultation questions, the critical one being Q8. This will include the evidence from the survey and the SuperControl Data. We will also find ways to utilise the case studies that so many of you are sending in, about how badly this measure will damage your businesses.

We do have until April 12 for everyone to submit their responses so we have time to assemble the body of evidence.

We are holding a Wales Members meeting by zoom as follows:
Wales Members Meeting #1: **1530 on Monday 4 April**

If you wish to attend, please send an email to chair@pascuk.co.uk with Wales Meeting in the subject line and the name of your Business as well please.

PASC UK MEMBERS ZOOM MEETINGS DATES

We held a successful series of Members Meetings for PASC UK Members and PASC UK Self-Catering Agency Members over the last week or so.

We will be continuing with these on a regular basis. These meetings are not recorded as they are to Chatham House Rules.

We are also holding a separate one for Welsh Members as there is so much going on there that is specific to them.

General Members Meeting #2: 1400 on Monday 4 April 2022

Wales Members Meeting #1: 1530 on Monday 4 April

The format of these meetings is very different from the Webinars that you are familiar with. These are meetings, everyone can see each other, and everyone gets an opportunity to speak and ask questions. They are available to paid up Members only.

If you wish to take part, please send an email to chair@pascuk.co.uk stating preferred date and time, and Membership name. Invitations will follow later.

Subjects that will be covered include:

- The upcoming Statutory Registration Consultation
- Welsh thresholds in Welsh Meeting
- Rises in costs and impact on pricing
- 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
- New Fire Safety Rules coming into effect for Self-Catering
- How the Buying Club works
- Any subjects that Members would like covered.

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

NEW 2021/2 INDEX

2021 New Items and which Newsletter they can be found here:

<https://www.pascuk.co.uk/covid19-newsletters/>

- 2022 Market Data on bookings so far
- What happens if a guest gets Covid at your property? Repeat
- New Revised Cleaning Protocols V5
- New PASC UK Website Live
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- Major announcement in Wales for Holiday Lets and Business Rates 4 March
- PASC UK Comment on Welsh Government announcement 4 March
- Self-Catering Agency Members Zoom Meeting Dates announced 4 March
- NFU Action group for Covid Claims Repeat 4 March Newsletter
- Storms and Guest Cancellations 25 Feb Newsletter
- Impact of rising costs on self-catering prices 25 Feb Newsletter
- Update on closed Wales Self-Catering Consultation 25 Feb Newsletter
- Removal of Covid Restrictions in England 25 Feb Newsletter
- Recording of Reducing Commercial Energy and Utility bills Webinar Repeat 18 Feb Newsletter
- Recording of PASC UK Buying Club Webinar Repeat 18 Feb Newsletter
- Some tips for those on residential energy supplies 18 Feb Newsletter
- PASC UK Recruitment Update 18 Feb Newsletter
- PASC UK Renewals 18 Feb Newsletter
- Update on most pressing Welsh Government consultation 18 Feb Newsletter
- Wales Working Group, and self-catering Consultations in Wales 18 Feb Newsletter
- How to try and locate business support grants in England 18 Feb Newsletter
- Business support from local Enterprise Partnerships 18 Feb Newsletter
- Insurance Update with more options and info 18 Feb Newsletter
- Collective action against NFU for covid Claims Update 18 Feb Newsletter
- Wales Working Group on Consultations feedback needed 18 Feb Newsletter
- Lifting of remaining restrictions in England 11 Feb Newsletter
- Welsh government marches on with Tourism Tax 11 Feb Newsletter
- Welsh Government bans smoking in Self-Catering 11 Feb Newsletter
- Wales Working Group, and self-catering Consultations in Wales 11 Feb Newsletter
- Govt urged to CUT vat, save £4.6bn and Level up. 11 Feb Newsletter
- Welsh government marches on with Tourism Tax 11 Feb Newsletter
- Welsh Government bans smoking in Self-Catering 11 Feb Newsletter
- Mental Health Support 4 Feb Newsletter
- Collective action against NFU 4 Feb Newsletter
- Specialist Holiday Let Mortgages 4 Feb Newsletter
- Hot Tub Ambulance Chaser Claims 4 Feb Newsletter
- Covid insurance policy for guests 4 Feb Newsletter
- Hosting Tourism and Hospitality APPG 4 Feb Newsletter
- EV Charging option for Members 4 Feb Newsletter

- Check your Photographs to avoid unnecessary costs 4 Feb Newsletter
- Reporting Taxable Grants 4 Feb Newsletter
- Water Charges in England and Scotland 4 Feb Newsletter
- EV Charging, call for information 4 Feb Newsletter
- Energy Grants, call for information 4 Feb Newsletter
- 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

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Professional Association of Self-Caterers UK

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.