



# Professional Association of Self-Caterers UK

## NEWSLETTER

### 2 July 2024 Issue 218

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#### COMMENTARY

We will have a new Government next week, and there will be little time for Parliamentary matter as Westminster will go into Summer Recess. Because of the timing of the General Election and how long it takes to swear in new MP's, have the Kings Speech and have the usual six sittings days to debate the content, it is likely that the recess will be a little later than the 17 July.

Regardless of that, there is little Parliamentary time before MPs return to their Constituencies in England.

During this period if you see or hear of anything that you think is relevant to our sector, perhaps coming from a new MP, please just drop us a note and we will follow up.

We have our communication plan set for the new MPs and Ministers when appointed. As many as half could be new ones so providing key information and data about sector forms a core element of our activity. We will share more on this next week.

The Manifestos have been summarised in previous Newsletters which can be found here. They are lacking in any real policies on wider tourism and only a few comments relating to our sector, so we will be watchful as ever over the coming days and weeks.

As soon as we know anything on note we will call a Members meeting to discuss any implications and what we plan to do in response.

Long term PASC UK Members will remember that we led and curated the Cottagesure Action Group. The policy underwriters had initially said that we were not covered for business interruption due to Covid. We disputed this and to cut a long story short we win on the Supreme Court along with several other policies and 2500 policy holders were able to make their claims for loss of revenue. A life changing moment for so many of the claimants.

Now NFU Mutual have been called to account by a similar small group of policyholders and the formal court papers have been served on NFU Mutual.

If any of the readers of this newsletter had a policy with NFU Mutual during Covid it would be worth checking to see if your policy is one that could fall under this collective action. There is more detail below in the Newsletter which covers which policies were affected, and who to contact. We will be tracking this case as it develops.

PASC UK has been involved in helping establish a Southwest Visitor Economy Hub. The success of this free service to tourism business is intended to roll out more widely across the UK. It will help business track in real time how business is locally to that they can make better decisions on pricing and marketing. Initially funded by the LEP it currently covers Devon and Somerset, so if you are in those Counties, so read the note below and take part.

Best regards

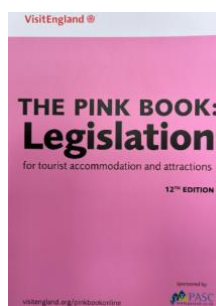
Alistair

## UPDATE FOR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

### New Members

For all new Members, upon joining for the first time, you will be sent the following items by post:

- Pink Book
- Window Sticker
- Membership Certificate



### Renewing Members

When renewing your Membership, as the pink book is not updated on an annual basis we don't resend it to you. You are able to download your certificate and order window stickers free of charge from here: <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/account/member-downloads/>

### Auto-Renewals:

Many of our Members have opted into “auto-renewals” so that their Membership is automatically renewed annually, using the card they have securely placed on file. We are only able to “auto-renew” your Membership, with your prior permission – if you have opted in to auto-renew then you have already provided this to us.

2 weeks prior to your annual renewal date, you will be sent an email notifying you that payment will shortly be due, with the associated invoice attached. On the renewal date, the card that you have placed on file will be charged with the corresponding amount.

Signing up to auto-renew ensures continuity in your access to Members only content, the buying club and phone and email support from Alistair and the Team.

If you would like to check or change your auto-renew status, for example so that you can pay by BACS on invoice as opposed to auto renewing by credit card, this can be arranged. To do this please email [admin@pascuk.co.uk](mailto:admin@pascuk.co.uk) Thanks.

## **ACTION GROUP AGAINST NFU MUTUAL DENIAL OF COVER DURING COVID**

Long time readers of the PASC UK newsletter will be familiar with the Cottagesure Action Group of 2020/21.

We are now reaching out to our Members on behalf of Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP who have issued and served formal court proceedings against NFU Mutual on behalf of, at present 37 policyholders who’s policies contained a specific endorsement which led to their claim for Business Interruption Insurance cover pay out to be declined.

If you held an NFU Mutual Policy during the Coronavirus Pandemic, Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP will conduct a free review of the insurance policy documents you advise you whether you have a suitable potential claim.

The Policies affected were referred to by NFU Mutual as “Commercial Select”, “Farm Select” and “Estates Select”.

Any NFUM policyholders who would like their policies reviewed for free can submit an enquiry online at [www.penningtonslaw.com/bi-claims-form](http://www.penningtonslaw.com/bi-claims-form) or alternatively can contact us by email, either at: [biclaims@penningtonslaw.com](mailto:biclaims@penningtonslaw.com) or [colin.hayes@penningtonslaw.com](mailto:colin.hayes@penningtonslaw.com)

There is press coverage here: <https://bit.ly/NFUcoverage1>

And here: <https://bit.ly/NFUcoveragetwo>

## **SOUTH WEST VISITOR ECONOMY HUB LAUNCH, FOR DEVON AND SOMERSET BUSINESSES**

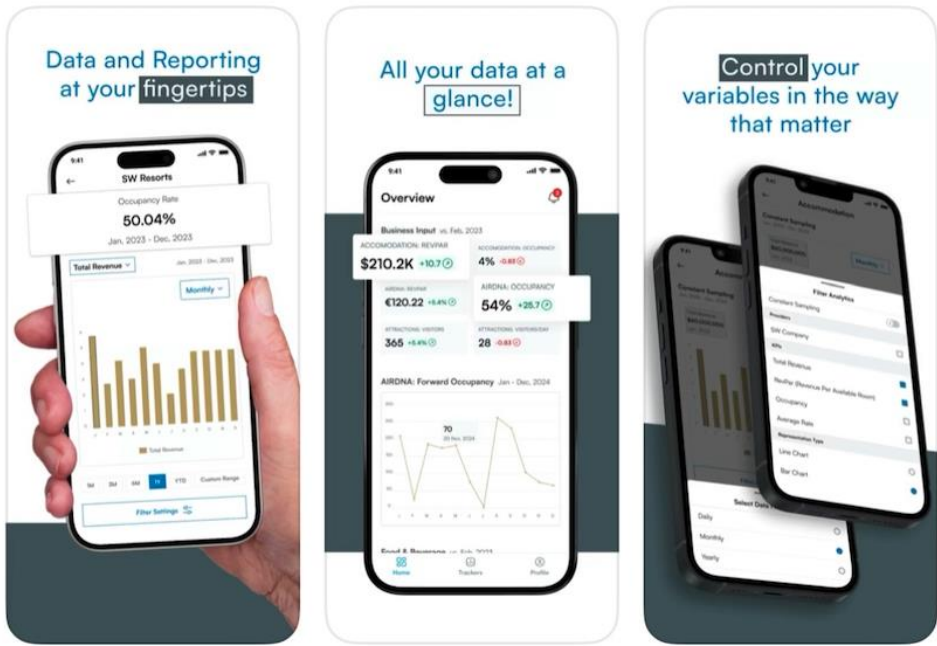


# South West Visitor Eco... Business

Open

Metarelic Studio

Business



A new free online software tool is being launched to provide tourism businesses with access to a vast range of data from many different sources showing sector and visitor trends.

The South West Visitor Economy Hub continuously collects data and presents it using pictures and graphics. Unlike one-off surveys, aggregated and up-to-date information enables sector and visitor trends to be constantly tracked, and the changes understood.

The hub's aim is to help businesses and organisations in the tourism sector understand:

- Who visits Devon and Somerset
- How many visitors travel here
- What they think about the area
- Why people aren't visiting and what their perceptions are
- What the economic impact of tourism is
- What the future holds
- The impact of digital marketing
- How your business is performing against your peers
- What impacts business performance, for better and worse

Easy to use, businesses can log in from a desktop computer or smart device and see how the sector is changing, both locally and further afield, in real time. The data hub also equips sector and support organisations with better, more comprehensive information so that they can make better decisions about marketing, planning, policy making and investing in the tourism sector for the future.

For the data in the system to be truly robust and give a complete picture, every business needs to play their part by providing basic information about themselves and updating it on a regular basis. No-one else can see this data, but when combined with all the other intelligence in the system, each user will be able to understand so much more, including being able to compare their performance with sector peers.

The South West Visitor Economy Hub is the product of extensive consultation with tourism businesses and organisations in the region, as well as Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, Somerset Chamber of Commerce, Devon's Top Attractions and PASC.

Created specifically for tourism businesses and organisations, it is the first product of its kind bringing much needed real time data and insight to all.

For more information and to see the system in action, click on the link to watch the introductory webinar and follow the instructions to sign-up, click here: <https://bit.ly/SWVEH>

## **PASC UK WEBINAR AND MEETINGS PROGRAMME FOR JULY 2024 UPDATED 2 July**

We will shortly be announcing further webinars and meetings for the June programme. These will include the following:

- Election and Govt Policy updates
- Fire Update (Open plan Guidance, subject to update from Home Office)
- Sustainability and our sector
- And more.....

We are just getting availability for the speakers and expect to announce these dates next week.

Previous webinars and meetings can be viewed on the PASC UK Website at: <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/webinars/> Members only recordings are in the Members area.

### **1/ PASC UK & AA Visit England New Grading Schemes and Visitor Ready Scheme**

**ANY SELF-CATERING/SHORT TERM LET BUSINESS CAN ATTEND**

## **NOW 1100 ON 10 JULY 2024**

Please join us for a Webinar where will introduce you Simon Numphud, Managing Director of the AA and lead on the overhaul of the Visit England and AA Quality Grading Schemes that has taken place over the last year.

PASC UK took part in the self-catering part of this review. Simon will explain the changes, and how the scheme can work for you, plus introducing a new free scheme called Visitor Ready. This webinar is open to all in the sector

We will cover the following:

- What are the Quality Grading Schemes?

- Who runs and manages them?
- What' changed?
- What is Visitor Ready?
- How to get take part?
- Q&A

Please register using this link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_QXkbEnpPR66P1kyIfgxiw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QXkbEnpPR66P1kyIfgxiw)

Upon registration you will automatically get a link by email to use to join the Webinar.

## **PASC UK ON THE ROAD AND IMPORTANT MEETINGS AHEAD UPDATE 2 JULY**

Over the coming weeks PASC UK will be present at the following events:

- 16<sup>th</sup> July, Wales Tourism Week, Senedd Reception
- 4/5 October, Property Investor Show, Excel London
- 6/7 November: Scale UK, The Oval London.

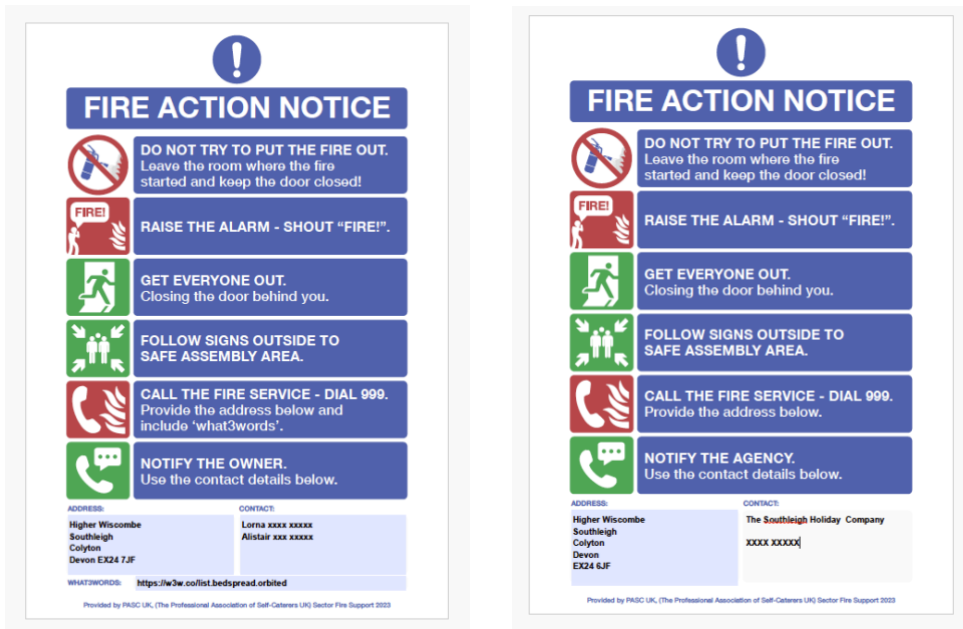
## **IN PERSON PASC UK MEMBERS MEETINGS UPDATE 2 JULY**

We are preparing to roll out further in person Members meetings across England and Wales after the success of the meetings in Northumberland, Devon, Cornwall, Wales and Worcestershire.

- The next meeting will be in Norfolk, we are just checking final dates
- Followed by the Brighton area

## **FIRE GUIDANCE WHERE TO FIND IT ALL? UPDATE 2 JULY**

**We have been told by the Home Office that no updates will be issued until we are clear of Purdah and the Election process is complete. Not really likely until the end of July earliest.**



They can be found here: [https://www.pascuk.co.uk/fire\\_checks\\_and\\_safety/](https://www.pascuk.co.uk/fire_checks_and_safety/)

There are short docs that summarize the current situation with Fire Regs in self-catering in England and Wales. They signpost you to all the regulations, the Government produces Guidance, the additional PASC UK papers and more.

They can be found here: [https://www.pascuk.co.uk/fire\\_checks\\_and\\_safety/](https://www.pascuk.co.uk/fire_checks_and_safety/)

If you are looking for information on why the regs are now law in England, and coming in Wales, or what a Responsible person is, please refer to recent Newsletters.

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

## Main Home Office Papers

### Home Office Guidance on Making your small paying guest accommodation safe from fire 2023

This paper covers small units, without open plan downstairs, not more than four bedrooms, sleeping no more than twelve in two storey buildings.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1147723/A\\_guide\\_to\\_making\\_your\\_small\\_paying-guest-accommodation\\_safe\\_from\\_fire.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1147723/A_guide_to_making_your_small_paying-guest-accommodation_safe_from_fire.pdf)

### Fire Safety Risk Assessment Sleeping Accommodation

This paper goes some way to helping with larger properties, but is an old paper, published in 2006 and is currently being updated by the Home Office. Earliest date expected is around the end of the year.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/422192/9281\\_Sleeping\\_Accommodation\\_v2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/422192/9281_Sleeping_Accommodation_v2.pdf)

## Additional PASC UK Supporting Papers

To help owners navigate through this, and to supplement the Government Papers mentioned above, we have commissioned three initial papers from our Fire expert, Paul Bray, GFireE, Fire Safety Consultant.

The papers are number 1,2 and 3. They can be found here: <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/reports/> and also here: [https://www.pascuk.co.uk/fire\\_checks\\_and\\_safety/](https://www.pascuk.co.uk/fire_checks_and_safety/)

### **Paper One: The Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order 2005**

This is a background paper explaining the legal background of the Fire Regs and the Fire Regs.

### **Paper 2: Additional Notes to the Home Office Guidance on Making your small paying guest accommodation safe from fire 2023**

This paper provides additional notes to use in conjunction with the Home Office Guidance on Making your small paying guest accommodation safe from fire paper.

### **Paper 3: Applying the Sleeping Risk Guide to existing holiday accommodation**

This paper provides the first paper on providing additional information for larger properties.

### **Fire Checks at Changeover, Routine maintenance and Testing V1**

This provides a guide to fire checks at changeover, and a testing regime.

### **How to find a Competent Fire Risk Assessor?**

This provides the websites where you can find authorised fire experts.

### **Updated Fire Risk Assessment**

Suitable for use with the 'Small' guide from the Home Office and Welsh Fire, with the addition of a 'Review Date' box.

### **Train as a Competent Fire Risk Assessor**

Lots of request about how to become a Competent Fire Risk Assessor. This is probably only feasible and of interest to those with multiple properties or agencies.

### **Additional Fire Safety Notices (without What3Words)**

We have produced some further Fire Safety Notices without a space at the bottom for What3Words. We really do recommend that you include creating a What3Words reference for your property as most emergency services all over the country use it.

### **What3 Words explained**

What3Words is and how to use it.



## FAQ's

We have published the first sets of FAQ's, the most asked fire questions. This will be regularly updated and when updates are made, they will also appear in the newsletter.

These can all be found at [https://www.pascuk.co.uk/fire\\_checks\\_and\\_safety/](https://www.pascuk.co.uk/fire_checks_and_safety/)

Members questions are welcome on any issues that they have with their Fire Risk Assessments, and we will answer as best we can. We are not ourselves fire safety experts and will do our best to try and offer solutions or signposts to solutions. We are afraid that we cannot answer non-Members questions on fire issues.

## 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 £80
- 2 – 4 Units £140
- 5 – 10 Units £220
- 11 + Units £320.

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-pasc-uk/>

Wishing every one of you all the best.

Best regards

Alistair Handyside MBE  
Executive Chair  
The Professional Association of Self-Caterers UK  
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