Professional Association of Self-Caterers UK

NEWSLETTER

24 February 2026 Issue 303

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COMMENTARY

We can't start this newsletter without a HUGE thank you to all of those who took the time to respond to the **Overnight Visitor Levy** consultation, and the Call for Evidence on **Business Rates**. As always, we provided guidance notes to support anyone wishing to do this and as the result on EPCs shows, taking the time to respond to these consultations is hugely important and valuable.

A fairly quiet week (relatively speaking) on the Political front while MPs and MSs were on recess as we await the Spring Statement next week.

For those within easy reach of Portsmouth, Livvy will be at the HostPlanet Solent event next week on Wednesday 4th March – if you would like to attend, please email support@pascuk.co.uk for more details.

On Thursday at 1100 we will be hosting our "Introduction to Making Tax Digital" with ATT which is open to all and can be booked **HERE**, followed by a three-part masterclass for Members to guide them through the process. Details of the 'Masterclass' sessions can be found in the webinar programme section of the newsletter.

We are delighted to welcome Turno as a Partner to both support our Members with streamlining their cleaning needs as well as their support enabling us to further our work on behalf of our Members. Join us on 14th April at 1200 to hear more about how they can support your business. Register here.

Please note that Alistair is on leave for just over two weeks on a much needed break – the rest of the team will be holding the fort.

With thanks as always from the whole Team at PASC UK.

EXEC CHAIR ON LEAVE

Alistair, the PASC UK Exec Chair will be on leave from Thursday 19th February to Monday 9th March. During that time he will both have limited access to email and will also be looking to have a proper holiday. During this time, if you are a Members please send any urgent emails to support@pascuk.co.uk Thanks for your support and consideration.

POLITICAL UPDATE

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves, is due to give her spring statement on Tuesday 3rd March, which will outline the OBR's latest economic forecasts. Reeves is not expected to announce any major policy decisions, which appears intentional given the negative impact uncertainty created ahead of last year's autumn budget. Individuals at the Treasury have indicated that they want this to be a "complete non-event".

Parliament was on recess last week, however, the first item on the agenda after returning was oral questions to the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government. During this, Sir Julian Smith (Con) MP for Skipton and Ripon highlighted that businesses in North Yorkshire are under significant pressure and asked the minister if the tourism tax could be put on hold in the interest of job creation for young people.

The Minister for Devolution, Faith and Communities (Miatta Fahnbulleh MP) replied: "The tourism levy has been campaigned for by mayors and local areas. We are consulting on the levy at the moment, but we are clear that there will be a balance between the ability of areas to generate that tax and ensuring that local businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises are thriving in the area, which is the remit and the priority of both mayors and the Government."

As members will be aware, we submitted our firm response to the consultation, which concluded on 18th February. With the consultation now closed, the Government will begin considering its response, including more specifics around the design of any levy.

Visitor Levy in the Media

There has been plenty of coverage on the proposed levy, including regional and national coverage by the BBC and regional titles such as The Scarborough News. WTTC (World Travel & Tourism

Council) analysis, reported in the Business Traveller, suggested a £10 per night levy could reduce international visitor spending by £14.4bn by 2027, with 39% of UK travellers and 29% of inbound visitors likely to consider alternative destinations.

Tourism Review reported that such levies could weaken UK price competitiveness and create operational complexity where multiple local levies are applied. In London, the Evening Standard reported that ministers are supporting a lower flat-rate levy of £2–£3 per night. BusinessLDN described this as the "least worst option," while UKHospitality continues to oppose the measure, saying "adding a new tax on to family holidays, business travel and international tourism will strangle growth, reduce investment and put jobs at risk."

In Wales, the Daily Post reported ongoing concerns over the 182-day threshold for non-domestic qualification, with campaigners highlighting financial impacts on operators. The article also highlighted proposed changes put forward by Mark Drakeford, which would allow operators to average letting days over multiple years to meet the 182-day threshold and permit up to 14 days per year of charitable short breaks to count towards the letting criteria.

Lee Anderson MP (Reform UK) wrote a piece for the Mansfield and Ashfield Chad arguing that the levy would add to cost pressures on hospitality and affect families, proposing VAT and employer NI reductions instead. The Sun and HospitalityUK are encouraging readers to join their campaign to Stop The Holiday Tax. We are supporting HospitalityUK in their advocacy efforts.

NEW PARTNER ANNOUNCEMENT – TURNO

Turno
Cleaning, solved.

Over the coming weeks and months, you will see a limited number of new selected Partners that we will be sharing with you. Each of these has been hand-picked by the PASC UK team, because of the benefits their service or platform offers to operators in our sector. You won't be bombarded by dozens of webinars – only ones with genuinely useful, educational or beneficial content to help support your business. The contribution to PASC UK that these Partners makes, helps us to expand on the work that we do on behalf of the sector.

We are delighted to announce that **Turno** are a Partner of PASC UK.

For those not already familiar with Turno, it is a specialist platform built for short-term let operators. It helps owners manage and source cleaning teams, automate scheduling, track quality, and handle payments all in one place.

This is a practical partnership, with many of you juggling rising costs, staffing pressures, tighter margins and more than ever before. Cleaning and changeovers are often one of the biggest

operational headaches. When that fails, everything fails. Turno, in simple terms, helps you to stay in control of that.

Join us on Tuesday 14th April at 1200 to meet the Turno team, and hear how they can simplify one of the biggest headaches we hear from Owners – Cleaning..! This webinar is open to all and you can register HERE.

MAKING TAX DITIAL – REMINDER & SUPPORT PROGRAMME AND LAUNCH OF SESSIONS WITH ATT (ASSOCIATION OF TAXATION TECHNICIANS) TO SUPPORT MEMBERS

In 2026 many of you will need to start reporting to HMRC on a quarterly basis and PASC UK have gone into partnership alongside ATT to support the sector through this.
This is a reminder of what Making Tax Digital (MTD) is and the section below, launches the first part of our support programme.

Reminder, what is Making Tax Digital? (MTD)

Making Tax Digital (MTD) is a mandatory HMRC initiative requiring businesses and landlords to maintain digital records and submit tax updates via compatible software. Currently, it applies to VAT-registered businesses.

Key Aspects of Making Tax Digital:

- **MTD for VAT:** Mandatory for all VAT-registered businesses to use digital records and file returns through MTD-compatible software.
- **MTD for Income Tax (ITSA):**
    - **April 2026:** Mandatory for self-employed individuals and landlords with qualifying income over £50,000.
    - **April 2027:** Mandatory for those with income over £30,000.
    - **April 2028:** Mandatory for those with income over £20,000.
- **Requirements:** Users must maintain digital records, submit quarterly updates, and provide a year-end declaration.

- **Software:** You must use software that connects directly to HMRC systems.
- **Penalties:** Late filing may result in penalties, starting at £200, though some penalties are waived in the initial 2026/27 rollout phase.

How to Prepare:

1. **Check Eligibility:** Determine when your income level makes you mandatory for MTD.
2. **Choose Software:** Select HMRC-compatible software for record-keeping and submissions.
3. **Digitize Records:** Begin keeping digital records for income and expenses instead of relying solely on paper or manual spreadsheets.
4. **Register:** Sign up for the MTD for Income Tax service on GOV.UK.

PASC UK is delighted to be partnering with The Association of Taxation Technicians (ATT) to support our Members with Making Tax Digital.

ATT and PASC UK are hosting a free to all Webinar for owners in England and Wales to explain Making tax Detail in headline terms so that you can see what that entails.

This will be a one hour Webinar session for all operators in England and Wales where the key deadlines, reporting and record keeping requirements and guide to finding suitable software will be covered. Details below:

Date: Thursday 26th February 2026
Time: 1000
Location: Zoom
REGISTER HERE

ATT and PASC UK will follow up be hosting a 3-part Masterclass series for Members which will cover:

Session One: Introduction to MTD
-When is it happening
-Who will be affected – including how to deal with a jointly owned property
-What does it involve (Digital Record Keeping, Quarterly Updates, and how the MTD tax return differs from the 'normal' self-assessment return)

Date: Tuesday 10th March
Time: 1030
Location: Zoom
REGISTER HERE (Members Only)

Session Two: How to get ready for MTD
-How to find suitable software and what it needs to do
-Record keeping requirements and how to approach these
-How and when to sign up

Date: Thursday 12th March
Time: 1030
Location: Zoom
REGISTER HERE (Members Only)

Session Three: Q&A and open surgery session for questions

Date: Tuesday 28th April
Time: 1300
Location: Zoom
REGISTER HERE (Members Only)

PASC UK WEBINAR PROGRAME FOR 2026

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 Making Tax Digital with ATT**

Date: Thursday 26th February 2026
Time: 1000 GMT
Location: Zoom

Details: Join the team from ATT to learn about the key features of Making Tax Digital.

Open to Members & Non-Members. **REGISTER HERE.**

2/ PASC UK Members Meeting - Introduction to MTD

Date: Tuesday 10th March
Time: 1030
Location: Zoom

Details: This meeting will cover…
-When is it happening
-Who will be affected – including how to deal with a jointly owned property
-What does it involve (Digital Record Keeping, Quarterly Updates, and how the MTD tax return differs from the 'normal' self-assessment return)

REGISTER HERE (Members Only)

3/ PASC UK Members Meeting - How to get ready for Making Tax Digital (MTD)

Date: Thursday 12th March
Time: 1030
Location: Zoom

Details: This meeting will cover…
-How to find suitable software and what it needs to do
-Record keeping requirements and how to approach these
-How and when to sign up

REGISTER HERE (Members Only)

4/ PASC UK introduction to Turno – How can Turno simplify Cleaning for you?

Date: Tuesday 14th April 2026
Time: 1200 BST
Location: Zoom

Details: Join the team from Turno to hear how they can simplify Cleaning for you.

Open to Members & Non-Members. **REGISTER HERE.**

5/ PASC UK Members Meeting - Q&A and open surgery session for questions on Making Tax Digital (MTD)

Date: Tuesday 28th April
Time: 1300
Location: Zoom

Details: Join our panel of experts to ask any questions you have in relation to Making Tax Digital.

REGISTER HERE (Members Only)

PASC UK SUPPORT PAPERS PROGRAMME

The first of these reports are ready for Download. Further updates on the remaining work in progress will follow.

Newly Published Reports

1/ PASC UK Paper on the Cumulative Impacts facing the Self-Catering Sector

This short paper describes the policies and impacts of the main Government policy interventions on the PASC UK 'Firework.

Members can download these **HERE.**
Non-Members can download these **HERE.**

2/ PASC UK Cymru Tourism Manifesto for the 2026 Senedd Elections

PASC UK Cymru has now published our Draft Manifesto for Wales. We will update this and the accompanying 'lobbying matrix' as progress is made on getting these pledges into Party Manifestos.

You can find the webpage **HERE**.

Members Can find the webpage **HERE**

3/ How the Senedd Elections is changing in 2026

This short paper explains how the Senedd Election is changing this year, with many more politicians being elected, and what impacts that may have.

You can find the webpage **HERE**.

Members Can find the webpage **HERE**

4/PASC UK DRAFT VOA 2026 LIST ENQUIRY GUIDANCE

This paper explains to owners how they can get a quick review of the 2026 Rateable Value before 1 April 2026.

Members can find it here: https://www.pascuk.co.uk/account/member-reports/
Non-Members here: https://www.pascuk.co.uk/reports/

5/ Update on Business Rate Changes Effective April 2026. V3

This paper has been updated in line with new information on the changes and includes example of how the changes come into effect through Transitional Relief over the coming years. We also provide a link to a spreadsheet that can help you calculate your own Business Rates Bills over the coming years.

Members can find it here: https://www.pascuk.co.uk/account/member-reports/
Non-Members here: https://www.pascuk.co.uk/reports/

These were launched in conjunction with a PASC UK Members Meeting with the Solicitor that wrote the papers.

The papers can be downloaded here as part of the Longer Term Lets Pack:
https://www.pascuk.co.uk/account/pasc-uk-legal-pack/

The Meeting recording will be available here: https://www.pascuk.co.uk/account/member-only-webinars/

6/ The PASC UK Self-Catering Owner Survey 2025

This paper can be download from here for Non-Members: https://www.pascuk.co.uk/reports/
Or from here for Members: https://www.pascuk.co.uk/member-reports/

Work in Progress Reports and Papers and expected lead times

7/ An Insurance Whitepaper. We have commenced work on an insurance Paper to help make sure that you are getting the right policy, asking the right questions of insurers and much more. **Expected in April.**

PASC UK ON THE ROAD AND IMPORTANT MEETINGS AHEAD

PASC UK will be present at the following events:

- 3 March. Tourism Alliance council Meeting
- 5 March. HostPlanet Portsmouth
- 18 March. Tourism Alliance Conference and House of Commons Parliamentary Reception
- 25 March. PASC UK Agency Conference, Tewkesbury
- 20 May. Tourism Alliance Council Meeting
- 23 June. Scottish Agri Tourism Conference
- 5 September. Reform Conference
- 19 September. Liberal Democrats Conference
- 27 September. Labour Conference
- 4 October. Conservative Party Conference
- 11 October. Premier Cottages Conference
- 24 October. Scale Barcelona

IN PERSON PASC UK MEMBER MEETINGS

Last year we covered the following, the Cotswolds, Cornwall, Devon, North and SW Wales, the Lake District and Northumberland. Given diary commitments alongside the Political Party Conferences, we will be providing dates for your diaries for the 2026 in due course.

Next year will see these meetings updated to offer more value and content to Members. If members have suggestions for either the content of the meetings or suitable venues in their area, please let support@pascuk.co.uk know.

Key targets for us to attend for the first time are:

- Norfolk/Suffolk
- Yorkshire
- Southeast/Brighton
- Mid Wales

Happy to get suggestions for venues, as we look to plan further events around England and Wales.

We apply a nominal charge of £10 per person to cover venue hire, tea, coffee and biscuits and attendance is for Members only. All Members from all areas are welcome.

If you have any questions or suggestions for changes to Members Meetings, please contact Livvy: support@pascuk.co.uk with the subject line "PASC UK Members Meeting".

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:

- Single cottage £90 plus VAT
- 2 – 4 Units £150 plus VAT
- 5 – 10 Units £235 plus VAT
- 11 + Units £335 plus VAT

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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PASC
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