Professional Association of Self-Caterers UK

NEWSLETTER

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COMMENTARY

The half-term weather provided a much-needed boost both during the week and for bookings generally. It was certainly fabulous to see guests revelling in the sunshine, having a great time and smiles all round.

Our recent Newsletter note about Tourism Taxes led to many questions and suggestions, so we have published a paper for Members covering more FAQs on the subject, more detail below.

PASC UK also were signatories to letters sent to the key Government Departments to rethink the Overnight Visitor Levy, as the proposal meets some stiff resistance in some quarters and across all parties. We have several meetings planned as well as a day in Westminster where we will be meeting politicians of all parties to highlight the threat to our sector.

There was an interesting publication from a left wing think tank, the New Economic Forum which highlights the decline in domestic tourism over the last decade. READ IT HERE.

Visit Britain data shows that the biggest challenge to domestic bookings is the cost of accommodation, so one may think that making it even more expensive at this time is not the best plan.

Whilst on the subject of Visit Britain, the Government have cut their salary budget back again by another 10%, not the best signal as we impatiently await the Visitor Economy Growth Plan that has been development almost since the Government took power. It's fair to say the optics could be better for tourism with this Government currently. READ IT HERE.

The recent VAT cut for children's entrance fees to attractions and children's meals does show that that the Government understand that cutting VAT can drive behaviour, but this reduction is too small and too short. Your thoughts and comments are welcome on this.

Many thanks as always,

Alistair and the team at PASC UK

POLITICAL UPDATE

Parliament returned from recess on Monday, and the overnight visitor levy and short-term lets remained firmly on the agenda.

A Commons debate on coastal communities saw Jayne Kirkham (Truro and Falmouth, Lab) call for a faster rollout of a holiday lets registration scheme, arguing it would help address the proliferation of second homes and unlock more affordable housing. Neil Duncan-Jordan (Poole, Lab) agreed, noting that some parts of Poole now consist almost entirely of holiday lets with no permanent residents.

Parliamentary questions from Caroline Voaden (South Devon, LD) and Stuart Anderson (South Shropshire, Con) pressed the Government on progress with the registration scheme and support for rural tourism businesses. Lord Mott (1, 2) (Con) sought a Government assessment of the levy's impact on rural and coastal communities and the self-catering sector. Ministers confirmed no impact assessment has been published, with the Treasury's Dan Tomlinson noting the policy design is still being developed and that mayors would consult locally before implementing any scheme. In response to probing questions on the impact of the levy from Alison Griffiths (Bognor Regis and Littlehampton, Con), the Government confirmed it has not yet published an assessment of the levy's impact on domestic tourism, as the policy's final design is still being developed.

Lord Truscott (non-affiliated) also made a lengthy contribution, arguing that the Government's 1.5 million homes target will be undermined unless short-term lets are restricted or banned outright, contending that platforms such as Airbnb are drawing landlords away from the private rented sector. The Minister made no such commitment in their response.

Media Update

Coverage this week reflected continued opposition from operators on the ground and support from some local authority leaders.

The BBC reported that Somerset operators, including Butlin's and Unity Holidays, warned the levy would make UK holidays less affordable and threaten jobs in coastal economies. Similar concerns were raised in North Yorkshire, where businesses told This is the Coast that the charge would add costs and harm the visitor economy.

In Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin signalled support for a West Yorkshire levy, arguing a modest charge could fund local infrastructure and tourism projects. The Daily Express ran a piece titled "Keir Starmer is planning a new tax to hit holidays, and there's outrage," capturing the broader political temperature.

On short-term lets, The Times reported that Westminster City Council is pressing Airbnb and Booking.com over more than 2,700 properties suspected of exceeding London's 90-day letting limit.

Finally, VisitEngland has approved a new Local Visitor Economy Partnership for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Paul Bristow highlighted its potential to support 40,000 jobs and a sector worth £2 billion annually to the regional economy.

PASC UK IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM

For those of you who use Instagram, or that prefer this channel to Facebook, PASC UK has now joined Instagram so that you can keep up to date with our work on behalf of the sector and updates on there.

You can find us HERE or by searching @pasc.uk on Instagram.

FAQ'S ON THE OVERNIGHT VISITOR LEVIES (ENGLAND & WALES) – MEMBER PAPER AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD

As promised in the most recent Members meetings, and as a follow on from the overview of FAQs, we have published our Members paper on FAQs on overnight visitors levies, covering both England and Wales.

The paper covers many of the questions the questions that we've been receiving from Members seeking clarification – from when it might happen, what it means for VAT, to how it would work if you're a remote owner, or how it should be treated if you, or friends and family stay at the property and much more. We have included a map showing the areas which may be affected – for those that aren't currently a Mayoral Authority, or a have a devolution agreement in place, it is not yet clear how those areas may operate.

This will remain a working document as more information becomes available – the legislation hasn't yet been written in England, and the map will be updated as and when there is more clarity. If you have a question that isn't answered by the paper, please email support@pascuk.co.uk with the subject line "Tourism Levy".

The paper can be downloaded by Members HERE.

NEW CALL FROM DCMS FOR STAUTORY REGISTRATION TESTERS – ENGLAND (INCENTIVE OFFERED!)

PASC UK is looking for Members and operators in England to help test the proposed DCMS Statutory Registration Scheme system.

This is your opportunity test and contribute to the development of the forthcoming Statutory Registration Scheme and to make sure the system is tested by genuine operators before wider rollout.

DCMS is particularly looking for operators that fit into any one or more of the categories below:

- Providers/managers with more than 10 properties (this could include small Agencies & Property Managers)
- Providers letting individual rooms within properties
- Businesses with more complex letting arrangements or overflow accommodation
- New providers with less than 1 year in the sector

• Businesses operating as limited companies, partnerships, trusts or charities
• Urban operators, especially London
• Overseas providers operating as companies
• Management agents operating individually or as companies (this includes Self-Catering Agencies)

As a thank you for your time, a £40 gift card will be provided to anyone who is invited and completes the testing of the service. The voucher can be redeemed across a wide range of retailers.

We know many of you are already battling a tsunami of change across tax, fire regulations, and registration proposals. That is exactly why it is vital the sector engages now.

If you are willing to help, email support@pascuk.co.uk with the subject line "Testing" and the category which best describes you.

Now is the time to make sure the voice of professional self-catering operators is heard!

ADDITIONAL TRADEPOINT DISCOUNT FOR PASC UK BUYING CLUB MEMBERS

From 1st June until 30th June, PASC UK Buying Club Members will have access to an increased discount at Trade Point (B&Q) – from 10% to 12.5%. This can be used across the store and can be used for purchases for both your business and home!

If you haven't yet joined the PASC UK Buying Club, it is free as part of your PASC UK Membership – simply email support@pascuk.co.uk with the subject line "Buying Club" to be set up!

DISCOUNTED RATE FOR GROUPACCOMMODATION LISTING – FOR PASC UK MEMBERS

GroupAccommodation.com

PASC Members get 15 months for the price of 12 when they join GroupAccommodation.com

GroupAccommodation.com is the direct booking platform for large holiday homes and venues. If your property sleeps 8 or more guests (in a single unit or across multiple cottages/units), they can help you take more bookings, with no commission to pay.

- GroupAccommodation.com charge a simple annual listing fee, passing all enquiries to you directly.
- Reach over 1.2 million annual users, all looking for group stays.
- Take more control of your guest comms, pricing and cashflow.

GroupAccommodation.com has been operating since 2003, and now works with 1,850+ independent property owners and managers right across the UK and Europe.

PASC members get 25% extra free when they join.

The small print: GroupAccommodation.com is offering 15 months for the price of 12 for PASC members who sign up before the end of June 2026. Open to new GroupAccommodation.com customers only. Properties must sleep 8+ guests.

Find out more HERE.

HMRC TO APPEAL EV CHARGING VAT RULING

HMRC has confirmed it will appeal a Tribunal decision that could have reduced VAT on public EV charging from 20% to 5%.

The March 2026 ruling found that electricity supplied through public charging points could qualify for the reduced domestic VAT rate where usage remains below 1,000kWh per customer per month at a specific location. The Tribunal accepted the argument that this electricity should be treated in the same way as domestic consumption.

HMRC argues that public charging points do not qualify because they are located in public places such as car parks and petrol stations, rather than private homes. The tax authority estimates that losing the appeal could cost the Treasury around £85 million per year, with the possibility of substantial retrospective repayments.

The case has wider significance because the Treasury has already been considering whether to align VAT rates on public EV charging with the domestic 5% rate. Ministers are concerned that higher charging costs could discourage EV adoption, particularly for drivers who do not have access to home charging facilities.

For now, the standard 20% VAT rate remains in place while the appeal process continues. You can read more HERE.

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.

We will shortly be announcing some more Webinars!

PASC UK ON THE ROAD AND IMPORTANT MEETINGS AHEAD

PASC UK will be present at the following events:

- 3 June. Visit England Awards. Bristol
- 9/10 June. Scale Brighton
- 17 June. Tourism Alliance AGM. London
- 5 September. Reform Conference
- 19 September. Liberal Democrats Conference
- 22 September. Tourism Alliance Council Meeting
- 27 September. Labour Conference

- 4 October. Conservative Party Conference
- 11 October. Premier Cottages Conference
- 24 October. Scale Barcelona
- 29 October Visit Wales Awards

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

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