Professional Association of Self-Caterers UK

NEWSLETTER

14 July 2026 Issue 323

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COMMENTARY

Managed to get a few days off last week, and to take the opportunity to experience some of places we recommend to our guests in the glorious, if a trifle hot weather. Great to be reminded of the quality and diversity that we can all offer our guests when they come to stay.

Work across PASC UK carried, with continuing progress in Wales. Nicky was feeding MSs of all parties with information around 182 and the Holiday Tax and whilst the motion was voted down, Plaid and Labour working together the narrative IS changing, the debate was better and Members from all parties spoke about the impact of 182.

In Powys the Council voted to cancel backdated Council Tax Premiums on self-catering businesses that had not hit 182 days who hadn't received notification of being taken off Business Rates and reverted to Premium Council Tax – leaving them with large and unexpected bills. The reasons given were that it was costing more to collect than it raised and it was damaging genuine businesses. This is a significant development, and adds further pressure for a formal review of 182. The team are working with Powys Council and will produce a Q&A paper to explain the detail this week.

This week see's us straight back to London, last night we were in the House of Commons attending the Booking.com reception, meeting MPs, stakeholders and colleagues. Events like this are useful, keep us regularly in the Westminster Estate and allow us to build our base of supporters.

Marc Crothall – Scottish Tourism Alliance, Ben Spier – Forge Holidays & PASC UK, Alistair Handyside – PASC UK, Livvy Handyside – PASC UK, Fiona MacConnacher – Historic Houses & James Foice, ASAP

Chris Webb MP, Alistair Handyside – PASC UK & James Foice - ASAP

Tonight, PASC UK is sponsoring a dinner in the House of Commons with the Coastal Parliamentary Labour Party, where we will be discussing all issues around coastal and rural tourism, particularly the impact of the proposed Overnight Visitor Levy (Holiday Tax). In between we have meetings with officials and MPs.

We apologise for having to reschedule the Keswick and Alnwick meetings, we have been offered important meetings around the tourism tax on those days. Tickets will be refunded and we will reschedule asap.

The new and updated T&Cs for Direct Bookings and the Review Policy are just going through final checks with the team here and will be released later this week – we will send a newsflash out when these are live on the website ☺

Things to do:

1. **Sign up for PASC UK webinars and meetings:**

1/ PASC UK x Zeal - Save More, Stress Less: Holiday Let Tax Simplified – Open to all
Date: 15th July 2026
Time: 1100
Location: Zoom
REGISTER HERE

2/ Booking T&Cs and Reviews Policy Guidance with Stephens Scown – Members only
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Many thanks,

Alistair & The PASC UK Team

POLITICAL UPDATE

With Parliament beginning to wind down ahead of the summer recess, it has been a slightly quieter week in Westminster. That said, one issue continues to dominate almost every conversation we have with politicians, officials and the wider tourism industry - the proposed tourism tax.

Tourism Levy Remains Front and Centre

PASC UK continued its engagement programme last week with a productive meeting with Sean Anstee, Director of Operations at the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority.

The discussion was encouraging. Sean was keen to hear directly from the sector, recognised tourism's importance to the local economy and made clear that engagement with businesses will be central to any future discussions.

It remains unclear whether Devon and Torbay will ultimately receive the powers to introduce a tourism levy, but it was reassuring to hear a genuine commitment to work alongside industry rather than develop policy in isolation. That is exactly the approach we have been calling for.

Coastal MPs Continue to Speak Up

It was also encouraging to see further political opposition emerging to the proposed levy.

The Blackpool Gazette reported growing concern from MPs, including Andrew Snowden MP, that a tourism tax could disproportionately damage coastal economies that rely heavily on domestic visitors. Coastal and rural destinations operate in very different circumstances to major cities and should not be treated in the same way.

Every additional cost placed on visitors risks making UK holidays less competitive at a time when many tourism businesses are already operating on tight margins.

It is good to see more MPs recognising those concerns and adding their voices to the debate. The coalition calling for a balanced, evidence-led approach continues to grow.

Looking Ahead

Although Westminster is about to head into recess, PASC UK's political engagement certainly is not. This week we have a busy programme of meetings and events with Labour Coast and Country MPs as we continue building relationships across Parliament and making the case for rural and coastal tourism.

We'll have plenty more to report on that in next week's newsletter.

HOT TUBS AND HOSEPIPE BANS

If you have a hot tub at your property, you will be aware of your obligations to comply with HSG282. Given this extended period of drier than average weather (good for bookings, not so good for the garden and reservoir levels!) some of our Members have queried where they stand with the requirement to change the water in their hot tubs either weekly, or between guests, whichever is shorter.

At the time of writing, the third heatwave of the summer is well underway with record breaking heat levels. Anglian Water, Affinity Water, Cambridge Water, South West Water, South East Water and Southern Water have some restrictions in place already with other areas set to follow suit.

You can check if you water provider is affected by scrolling down the page on this BBC link: https://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/articles/cyvj2lm2p14o

Yorkshire Water (you should check your own Water Company) as an example has a really clear set of FAQs, specifically outlining whether self-catering property owners are impacted in the context of their hot tubs: https://www.yorkshirewater.com/your-water/is-there-a-hosepipe-ban/ , including what to do with the water that you need to dispose of:

Can the hot tub water be used on the garden?

In reality, there should be very little harm to the flora and fauna in your garden, but it may be more useful to put the water into water butts, or use it for cleaning items such as greenhouses, or vehicles. To protect the environment, please never put the water from a hot tub into a watercourse (such as a river or stream) as this can damage wildlife.

My hot tub is part of my business offering to paying customers, am I included in the current hosepipe restrictions?

No, a hot tub used as part of a business is not included in the restrictions.

I have a holiday let; can I refill hot tubs at the property?

If you pay council tax on this holiday let, you are a domestic customer and, therefore, must observe the water use ban and not use a hosepipe. You can fill a hot tub with a hand-held container, not a hosepipe.

If you pay business rates, you are a commercial customer and do not fall under the restrictions and can use a hosepipe.

If you own a self-catering holiday property with a hot tub, you should comply with HSG 282, the hosepipe ban may or may not restrict refilling your hot tub - depending on your location and the water company's policies.

What does HSG 282 require?
Under HSG 282, holiday let hot tubs should undergo complete draining and refilling between guest stays - typically at least weekly - and must also meet regular sanitiser dosing, pH control, filter

maintenance, and microbiological testing protocols.

How do hosepipe bans affect this requirement?
Domestic restrictions typically prohibit use of a hosepipe for non-essential recreational activities, including filling or topping up swimming pools, paddling pools, and hot tubs. However, many water companies grant exemptions for businesses or commercial use, such as short-term holiday lets with hot tubs. Official guidance (e.g., Yorkshire Water) shows that while domestic users are barred from hosepipe use for hot tubs, business or commercial premises may still be allowed to do so, if it's essential for operations.

Summary: Are you likely exempt?
Yes - if your self-catering property is operated as a business activity (see note above from Yorkshire Water, **it is likely you will need to be on Business Rates for this to apply**), it is generally exempt from hosepipe bans when filling or maintaining hot tubs as required under HSG 282. **That said, it's crucial to confirm with your local water supplier, since policies can vary by region.**

What to do next:
1. Check your water supplier's current ban status and review any exceptions they offer for businesses.
2. Seek written confirmation - especially if you rely on hosepipe access for compliance with HSG 282.
3. If refused, consider using hand-filled methods (e.g. buckets or watering cans) to refill the hot tub between guests—these are allowed under bans.

ZEAL WEBINAR – SAVE MORE, STRESS LESS: HOLIDAY LET TAX SIMPLIFIED

By popular demand, Zeal are hosting a short webinar, 'Save More, Stress Less: Holiday Let Tax Simplified', on Wednesday 15th July at 1100 which is open to all subscribers.

In just one hour, Zeal will cover all things tax that have changed over the last 18months to help you get a full understanding of how they affect you, what your new tax compliance and reporting

obligations are, and how to claim available tax relief, before it's too late. There will also be time to ask any burning tax questions you have!

You can **REGISTER HERE.**

PASC UK HEADING OUT ON THE ROAD FOR IN-PERSON MEETINGS

One of the best bits of the job here at PASC UK is getting out on the road and seeing you, the Members, in person!

We've run these meetings before and they're a great opportunity for you to hear about the work we're doing, meet other Owners and to input into our future work.
We'll be on the road through the summer and into the autumn to make sure we avoid the worst of the weather and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

We've secured the first batch of venues, and have some dates locked in for you to pop in your diaries ☺

We've also added a section to these meetings that we haven't done previously – non-members are warmly welcomed to come and meet us before the Members meeting, to hear about the work we're doing, ask questions, and meet the team. If you've been thinking about joining us, this is a great opportunity to come and find out more!

But, we need your help! Below is a list of the areas that we're planning to visit – if you have a venue, or know of a suitable venue that is easy to get to, has free parking, and does good cake (very important!) please email support@pascuk.co.uk with the subject line "Members Meetings"

If you think we've missed somewhere, please let us know – we'll keep adding to the below with more details as we get the confirmed ☺

Anglesey
Alnwick – The White Swan Hotel, NE66 1TD – 22nd July – BEING RESCHEDULED
Cotswolds – SAVE THE DATE – 11th November
Cornwall – 28th July – The Alverton Hotel, TR1 1ZQ - Non Members Book Here. Members Book Here.
Isle of Wight – SAVE THE DATE – 16th September
South West Wales
Kendal – SAVE THE DATE – 23rd July – **BEING RESCHEDULED**
Peak District
North Norfolk
York

Tickets are £10 per head, with all proceeds going to the PASC UK Charity, chosen by our Members – The Family Holiday Charity.

Thank you in advance and look forward to getting to catch up with many of you in person!

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.

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PASC UK ON THE ROAD AND IMPORTANT MEETINGS AHEAD

PASC UK will be present at the following events:

- 28 July. PASC UK Members Meeting - Cornwall
- 5 September. Reform Conference
- 16 September. PASC UK Members Meeting – Isle of Wight
- 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
- 11 November. PASC UK Members Meeting - Cotswolds

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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