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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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To all members of the Visitor Economy Forum

13 November 2024

Dear Members,

We are writing to update you about our commitments to develop legislation which will support tourism and local communities.

We would like to thank you and the wider tourism sector for the constructive feedback and engagement to date as we develop this programme of work.

The Visitor Accommodation (Register and Levy) Etc. (Wales) Bill is expected to be introduced to the Senedd on 25 November.

The Bill will propose giving local authorities the power to introduce a visitor levy, which would be a small charge for people staying overnight in visitor accommodation in Wales. The levy would raise additional funds to help support the long-term sustainability of our tourism industry. Each local authority will be able to decide whether to introduce a visitor levy in its area based on its local circumstances.

One of the Welsh Government's tax principles is that our taxes should be developed through collaboration and involvement. Through consultation, continued engagement and the discovery work led by the Welsh Revenue Authority, we have received consistent feedback that we need a form of registration in place to support the levy. This has informed our decision to include a national register of all those providing visitor accommodation in Wales within the visitor levy bill.

We have previously consulted on a statutory licensing scheme for visitor accommodation in Wales as a means of helping to establish a level playing field and to ensure visitors have confidence in the high-standards available throughout Wales. The registration scheme proposed in the Visitor Accommodation (Register and Levy) Etc. (Wales) Bill is the first step towards that scheme.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We will be bringing forward further legislation to move us towards a statutory licensing scheme and enable visitor accommodation providers to demonstrate how their accommodation meets certain conditions.

With your continued engagement we will further our discussions with accommodation providers and other tourism stakeholders, as we progress with these proposals for the regulation of visitor accommodation.

We will be issuing a Visit Wales e-newsletter sharing the contents of this letter with the wider sector. Our officials will be in touch soon with details of further engagement opportunities to hear about the details of the Visitor Accommodation (Register and Levy) Etc. (Wales) Bill.

Yours sincerely,



**Mark Drakeford AS/MS**

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